

Tuesday September 24 1996
Abu Dhabi D 8.50
Albania 2.00
Andorra FF 10
Austria S 13
Belgium BF 65
Bosnia DM 1.50
Brazil R 1.50
Canada C 12.50
Czechia CZ 15.00
Denmark DK 15
Ecuador 1.50
Egypt E 6.50
Finland FM 12
France F 10
Germany DM 3.50
Greece G 4.00
Hong Kong HK\$ 25
Hungary H 130
Iceland IS 100
India IN 50
Israel NIS 9.50
Italy L 3,000
Japan Y 100
Korea K 150
Kuwait KD 9.50
Latvia L 15
Lithuania L 15
Luxembourg LF 55
Malaysia M 4.00
Malta M 4.00
Mexico MX 10
Morocco M 4.00
Norway NK 16
Oman OR 1.00
Pakistan R 70
Poland Z 6.20
Portugal P 240
Romania R 10
Saudi Arabia R 10
Singapore S 2.00
Slovakia SK 17
Slovenia S 17
Spain P 16
Sweden S 10
Switzerland SF 3.20
Taiwan T 100
Thailand TH 100
Turkey TL 100
Ukraine U 2.00
USA US\$ 2.75

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Michael Billington on Pinter's passions

Acts of betrayal

G2 with European weather



Inside Story

The addict who had the ear of the Government

G2 pages 4/5



Education

Schools that want to be up to the Chartermark

G2 pages 10/11

The foiling of the IRA

Suspect shot dead as raids uncover arms and explosives

David Sharrock, Owen Bowcott, Chris Elliott and Martin Watwright

IRA plans to demonstrate its still-murderous capacity with a series of spectacular attacks were set back yesterday after police and the intelligence services dealt the heaviest blow for years to the terrorist organisation. The scale of the police operation - which left one terrorist suspect dead and five others under arrest with the seizure of the largest explosives and arms cache in mainland Britain - indicates the IRA was gearing up for another phase in its war to remove Britain from Ireland. Ten tons of home made fertilizer-based explosive packed in boxes were found in a north London warehouse with an array of bombmaking equipment including car bombs, Semtex and 10 timers, plus two lorries. Police said they had frustrated an attack that could have taken place 'today or tomorrow'. The bombs were likely to have been meant for prestige targets such as the City of London and the Tory party conference in Bournemouth in a fortnight. The presence of under-vehicle booby trap bombs also suggests the IRA was preparing to widen its attacks to politicians or establishments figures. Security sources on both sides of the Irish border have in the past week claimed the IRA is about to hold an Army Convention, its ruling body. This could take far-reaching decisions about the direction of its campaign. The optimistic assessment is that those in the republican movement who favour an abeyance of IRA activity while the loyalist ceasefire holds were gaining the upper hand. However, it has been thought the IRA could only call a ceasefire from a position of strength after having provided high profile evidence of its continued capacity to mount terrorist operations. John Major was 'absolutely delighted' by the operation. 'The discovery of these plans and the huge stocks of explosives and arms put in their proper context professions of peaceful intentions by Sinn Fein's leaders and speculation about a new IRA ceasefire,' he said. Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, said he regret-



The trail of blood left after a man was killed during the police raid in Hammersmith, west London. PHOTOGRAPH LOUISE BULLER

'We heard them shouting from the ground 'Drop your gun, drop your gun, you've got no chance''

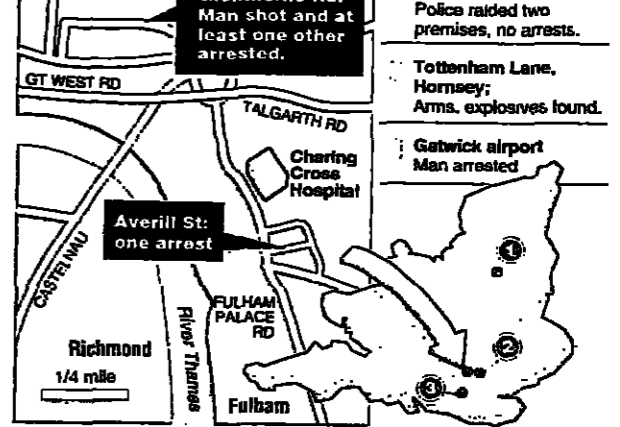
Witness Gulafshan Ali, aged 32

'One of the medical staff described him as being like a pin cushion because he had been hit so many times.'

Security guard at Charing Cross Hospital

Bombers thwarted

In raids across England yesterday, one man was shot dead and five others arrested as police moved in on an alleged IRA bombing network.



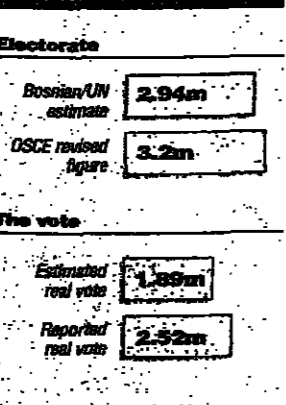
Lorry tip-off put MI5 on the scent

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE successful security and police operation which led to yesterday's arrests began when the Royal Ulster Constabulary tipped off MI5 about two lorries, believed to have been bought at auction in Ireland. The lorries were tracked from Ulster on the ferry to Cairryan in Scotland. Intelligence sources said last night. Once the trucks arrived in Scotland, MI5 watchers took control of an operation which eventually involved 10 police forces, as well as the RUC and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch. The lorries were tracked in Scotland and down through England until they reached their destination in north London. 'Hundreds of officers were involved,' an intelligence source said last night. The same route was used to drive the modified low-loader containing the bomb which exploded at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands in February this year, marking the end of the IRA's 17-month ceasefire. Though surveillance was the key to the operation, sources said a variety of techniques were used. These could have included bugging and telephone taps. It is possible, but unlikely, that the security services were originally tipped off by an informer. Republican sources in west Belfast said yesterday they suspected an informer, but the IRA would not in any case admit sloppy work by their members. The IRA, concerned about past reverses, is believed to have taken the risk of turning to experienced members, more likely to be known to the security and intelligence services, to train recruits.

West 'covering up mass fraud in Bosnian polls'

Bosnian vote



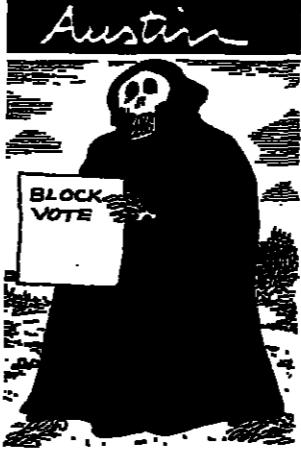
Julian Borger in Sarajevo

THE international organisation supervising the Bosnian elections is attempting to cover up wholesale fraud involving an estimated 600,000 phantom votes, according to preliminary results that call into question the apparent victory of the Muslim leader, Alija Izetbegovic. His margin of victory of 41,000 votes over the Bosnian Serb separatist, Momcilo Krajisnik, is dwarfed by the scale of voting discrepancies, the greatest of which are in predominantly Muslim areas. Independent election moni-

tors have called for the elections to be declared null and void after initial returns showed there had been 7 per cent more votes than estimated voters. Western observers say the figures suggest either cheating during the count, or - more likely - ballot-stuffing on a vast scale. However, if the election results were nullified, or if Mr Krajisnik were declared the victor, Western strategy in Bosnia would go into a tailspin: ● Bosnia's Muslims would refuse to accept Mr Krajisnik as head of state, as he helped orchestrate Serb ethnic cleansing during the Bosnian war. ● New government institutions could not be created, under the Dayton peace agreement, unless the whole election process - campaign, polling day count and results - is certified by the chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. ● Non-approval could postpone by months the draw-down of US-led Nato troops, presenting President Clinton with a foreign policy fiasco weeks before the US presidential elections in November. The OSCE, which is supervising the election and the count, has been under constant US pressure to play down evidence of fraud.

The head of the OSCE mission in Sarajevo is Robert Frowick, a US diplomat. Over the past month, the press department in the Bosnian capital has been gradually packed with US officials, while their European counterparts have been sent home or demoted, in effect making the UN press office an extension of the American embassy. Election observers believe the most likely source of fraud was large-scale ballot-stuffing. Unlike earlier international-supervised elections in Namibia (November 1988) and Cambodia (May 1993), there was only one international supervising team turn to page 6, column 1

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school, The Writers Bureau, explains, 'If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training.' The Writers Bureau runs a comprehensive correspondence course covering every aspect of fiction and non-fiction writing. The excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required. The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...



Inside Hyperactive children are being treated with amphetamine-like drugs unnecessarily, say psychologists today. 4

World News Half a century of nuclear tests is due to end formally today when President Clinton signs the Test Ban Treaty at the UN. 7

Finance Plans to merge British Airways and American Airlines appear unlikely to be sent to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. 11

Sport The future of Headingley as one of the country's leading multi-sports venues is reaching crisis point, it has emerged. 16

Comment and Letters By Christopher 10 G2 Crossword 16; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

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Sketch

Liberal sprinkling of magic moments



Simon Hoggart

LIBERAL conferences — the latest began in Brighton yesterday — have Liberal moments, prized by us connoisseurs. "I'm afraid," said an apologetic voice from the chair, "that Lindsay has gone off to have a coughing fit, so I've taken over for the moment."

through the traffic to join the throng. We had been misled. The four-wheeled contraption with a seat for two and canopy, the kind of thing parents hire for their children to pedal down the prom.

16-year-old denies stabbing to death 'good man defending pupil from attack by armed street gang'

Head 'killed by Triad gang'



Headmaster Philip Lawrence: Stabbed when he 'peaceably confronted gang leader'

Vivek Chaudhary

HEADMASTER Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death while trying to defend one of his pupils from an attack by a street gang which pretended to be the juvenile equivalent of the Triads, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.



Headmaster's wife Frances Lawrence at the Old Bailey

when Mr Lawrence confronted the leader, he was stabbed in the chest. "It was a tragic waste of the life of a good man for the worst reasons."

Lib Dem peer pleads for tactical voting

Priority is to oust Tories, Lord Rodgers asserts

Ewen MacAskill and Michael White

ONE of the Liberal Democrats' elder statesmen, Lord Rodgers, threw caution aside yesterday by urging tactical voting to elect Labour MPs where they stood the best chance of unseating Conservatives at the coming election.

most leading speakers criticised Labour "timidity" in almost equal measure with criticism of the Tories. But the party leader, Paddy Ashdown, who wants close co-operation with a Blair government but no merger, will not use his own major speech in Brighton this afternoon to bash Labour. Instead he will attack the Government for trying to monopolise patriotism by wrapping the Conservatives in the flag on issues like Scottish devolution and ties with the European Union.

With the election barely six months away, Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, yesterday dismissed talk of pacts, playing down the Liberal Democrats as little more than "an important pressure group". But such statements are for public consumption. Behind the scenes, Labour and the Liberal Democrats are conscious that after the election they may have to work together.

Speaking at the Guardian debate alongside MPs Emma Nicholson and Margerie Campbell, Lord Rodgers said: "I hope there will be a significant amount of tactical voting in the country. And if you were not an active Liberal Democrat and staying one, I would certainly say to the others of this country, vote to get rid of this government. Vote Liberal Democrat as a first preference, but vote Labour if that is the best way of doing so."

tender if you want to change the government." To sweeten the proposal, he predicted that Liberal Democrats could win 30-35 more seats if tactical voting succeeded, taking their likely tally to more than 40.

Review

Butterfly: without a wing or a prayer

Andrew Clements

Madama Butterfly Opera North, Grand Theatre, Leeds

NO one could accuse Opera North of being unwilling to take risks, but whether a popular repertory piece like Madama Butterfly is the right place to take them is another matter. They have hired a young Lithuanian director working on her first opera with an established company, and the two principal singers are making their debuts. The result is more inept and unconvincing than one could have imagined.

Butterfly's wedding there are so many of them, each carrying a member of the chorus decked out in sickly pink, that there is no room for anyone to move. In the second act, members of Butterfly's family, who have supposedly ostracised her for marrying Pinkerton and converting to Christianity, stand mute guard as the opera drives to its conclusion. Ibelhauptite also has Butterfly's son on stage from the beginning of the second act, neatly destroying the sense of shock, one of the searing moments in the opera, when she later produces him in front of Sharpless — the most extreme example of the director knowing best in the face of everything that the drama and the music scream to the contrary.

Little flair from Blair — but from the pen of Benn a flow of quotable quotes

John Ezard

NEW Labour still lags badly behind Old Labour in at least one distinguished skill — the art of speaking words which earn immortality in print. Despite all his media exposure and multitude of speeches, Tony Blair has only four entries in the new Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations, due out next month. His colleagues John Prescott and Gordon Brown figure only for their political gaffes.

power have you got? To whom are you accountable?", a backbencher who last held office 17 years ago, has as many quotes listed from the last two years as the Labour leader. The dictionary, which is edited by Yes Minister author Antony Jay, includes Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, for expostulating: "We're in danger of loving ourselves to death", during a 1994 leadership debate with Mr Blair and Margaret Beckett.

New initiative aims to keep pornography off Internet

Stuart Miller

INTERNET companies yesterday backed an initiative aimed at driving pornography off the Net despite warnings that the scheme was unlikely to succeed. A new independent foundation will be charged by the industry with processing complaints about illegal material on the Internet.

It will rate the contents of sites using a framework based on case law. Complaints from users will be verified and forwarded to the appropriate authorities. Details will be made available to the National Crime Intelligence Service to Interpol.

A word in your ear

THOSE who seriously believe we cannot improve our words written for the world of 1918 when we are now in 1995 are not learning from our history but living it. Tony Blair, on Clause 4, 1995. When you get to No 10, you've already had the message. Michael Foot, of David Steel, 1979. If I sound lukewarm about the European exchange rate mechanism, it was because of a frog in my throat. John Major, 1993. He's passed from rising hope to elder statesman without any intervening period whatsoever. Neil Kinnock, 1983. You don't reach Downing Street by pretending you've travelled the road to Damascus when you haven't even left home. Thatcher, of Kinnock, 1989. You have used every cliché except 'I love' and 'I don't love' your dear old mum.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance. Includes text: 'CUT YOUR HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE WITH OUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT.', 'It couldn't be simpler. Four claim-free years and you could save 30%. So look sharp. Call us now.', and contact information: 'FOR BUILDINGS & CONTENTS INSURANCE FREEPHONE 0800 121 004 PAY BY INSTALLMENTS INTEREST FREE'.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Includes text: 'LOVE', 'Paul Webster', 'A', '21 killed', 'Muslims', 'as Pakistan', 'The Goodwin', 'At the eight that h', 'Trade s'.

مركز التحليل

مكتبة النور



'Everything that happened to me was excessive. The madness surrounding me seemed unreal'



The many faces of Bardot... early in her career (left), in her heyday (top centre) and in 1990 after 'deliberately destroying her image as a sex symbol'. Below, former lovers Alain Delon (left) 'a cold being', and Sacha Distel, who 'became a zero'

Love and hate: Bardot bares her soul

The French cinema icon is releasing her autobiography, Paul Webster in Paris writes



Initiales BB... title inspired by ex-lover Serge Gainsbourg. She has spent much of the last 21 years putting together her own story as a reply to "all the rubbish that has been written about me".

AS HER 62nd birthday approaches on Saturday, Brigitte Bardot is about to reveal the full misery and the rare joys of being the most famous Frenchwoman since Joan of Arc.

me, life is made up only of the best and the worst, of love and hate. Everything that happened to me was excessive. In this book, I have stripped myself bare. The image is entirely in keeping with the semi-naked femme-enfant temptress of Roger Vadim's 1956 film Et Dieu Créa la Femme (And God Created Woman). First leaks of the text allude to alcohol abuse, self-destructive depression and a cinematic form of nymphomania in which the actress falls in love with her leading man from the first screen embrace.

and he was a Paris Match photographer covering the moral liberation movement in Saint-Germain-des-Près that brought together an intellectual elite, led by Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, and a mass of popular talent including the actress Juliette Greco and the writer Françoise Sagan.

Thoughts of BB

ON ACTOR ALAIN DELON: "Alain is handsome, certainly, but so is my Louis XVI comode. And I don't communicate any better with my comode than with Alain. Nothing happens in his face or in his eyes to cause emotion, nothing happens which attracts you, nothing which makes you believe in a silver of truth, feelings or passion. Alain is a cold being, extremely egotistic who has found nothing better to warm up his image than advertising furs. He makes a fine pair with Sophia Loren."

ON SINGER SACHA DISTEL: "All of a sudden the star of the couple was him with his contracts, his musicians, his think tank, his public relations. If only he had known at the time that his first public relations asset was me. He didn't find out until afterwards when he had become a zero... All the men who shared my life, whether singer, actor or playboy, had their moment of glory. They thought it was due to their own selves and were cruelly disappointed when they saw the glory pass to their successor and they were abandoned to their sad fate."

worth all my admiration and my love, which in some ways, still lasts. But I was so young and so mad that I did not realise I was involved with exceptional beings. I need to devour life and I let them pass. I have always fled to somewhere which I think better and never go back. When it's finished, it's finished."

ON MEN AND LOVE: "I love intense, reckless affairs. They must burn you up. Love must be passionate, even if passionate love does not last. That's why I have a life full of amorous liaisons. I fell in love with my male acting partners from the moment of the first love scene."

21 killed in mosque massacre

Muslims in tit-for-tat shootings as Pakistani violence spirals

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

TROOPS were patrolling the Punjabi city of Multan last night after at least 21 Sunni Muslim worshippers were killed in a mosque massacre by gunmen believed to be from a Shia group.

60 miles away, near the town of Bahawalpur, a senior figure in the hardline Shia Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) was killed. It was the killing on Sunday of another Shia leader in the area that prompted yesterday's attack on the Sunni mosque.



firing from three sides," he said. "The shooting went on for five minutes and there was blood and bits of flesh all over the mosque."

when the authorities arrested hundreds of militants, and religious parties formed a council to bring rival groups together. Violence subsided for a few months, but then the two groups blamed for most of the violence - the Shia Sipah-i-Mohammed Pakistan and the Sunni Sipah-i-Mohammed - dropped out of the council and resumed hostilities.

At the height of his addiction he was injecting eight times a day, pretending to local chemists that he needed it for terminally ill patients.

Inside Story on Clive Froggatt

G2 page 4

"This is the third loan I've had from Mercantile Credit. I like the people there."

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tical voting

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MP condemns 'law of jungle' killing

A SMALL time criminal beaten to death in a "punishment" attack on Sunday night was the victim of "the law of the jungle", his MP, William McCrea, the Democratic Unionist member for mid-Ulster, claimed yesterday.

Girl died after blood refused

A TEENAGE Jehovah's Witness died after a rollerblading accident because a blood transfusion was refused on religious grounds, an inquest heard yesterday.

Police sex case inquiry calls

NORTH Yorkshire police authority, which paid an unpublished £100,000 compensation to a staff victim of sexual harassment, is to hold an emergency meeting today after bi-partisan calls for an independent inquiry.

Man admits foot fetish assault

A TEENAGER with a foot fetish pulled a woman to the ground on an area of derelict land after she had picked up her daughter from dancing class and assaulted her after taking off one of her sandals.

RAF man killed in copter fall

THE RAF launched an inquiry yesterday after a crewman died falling from a helicopter during a night exercise in South Wales.

Burglar released in 'cock-up'

POLICE are hunting a burglar who was released from Walton jail, Liverpool, last Thursday after only two weeks of a four-year sentence because prison officials — who admit to "a bit of a cock-up" — mixed him up with an inmate with the same surname.

Church was told bishop had four women, house keeper claims

Erlend Clouston on 'revealing' letters

A THIRD woman emerged from Roderick Wright's past yesterday, claiming that church authorities had ignored her warnings about the Scottish bishop's unorthodox private life.

grave that he was not having an affair. On the second, she said, he turned white.

Guide lists ways to help clergy keep sexual pitfalls at bay

Sarah Boseley on avoiding scandal

GUIDELINES to help Church of England ministers avoid intimacy with adults or children which could lead to sexual scandal were published by the Oxford diocese yesterday.

statements of the code of practice and procedures in case of allegations of sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

Psychologists call for caution on drug treatment for hyperactive children



Chris Mihill and Jane Alfred

HYPERACTIVE children are being treated unnecessarily with amphetamine-like drugs in place of more appropriate forms of therapy, psychologists say today.

fer from ADHD. Nine out of 10 of those given that diagnosis then receive stimulant drugs. But British psychologists are concerned that problem children are being unnecessarily treated with drugs for behavioural problems which they will eventually grow out of.

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE 96. 15-17 OCTOBER 1996. WEMBLEY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, LONDON. Major Exhibition & Seminars. Wembley, London. 15-17 October. over 100 leading Suppliers. Latest New Products and Service. Seminars offering the latest advice on: Trading over the internet. Building an intranet. Supply Chain Management. Distribution. EDI. Messaging. Email. Much, much more. Complimentary Help Desk. Focus on Small Business Needs.

Martin Guerre adopts new guise as producer answers his critics

PREVIEW audiences didn't understand it, critics maulled it and audiences have been lukewarm. Now Sir Cameron Mackintosh, producer of hit West End shows Les Miserables and Miss Saigon, has bowed to market forces and announced that Martin Guerre, the musical, is to be rejigged.

Handicapped are 'in acute need of more housing'

THE report by the inquiry, under Gillian Wagner, is said to be the most comprehensive analysis of the community care needs of people with learning disabilities, estimated at between 500,000 and more than a million.

'I have taught children with special needs, but this beat me'

Victoria Clark

LOUIS, aged 11, thinks nothing of hailing women with "Hello, you old bitch!", or calling his granny "vermin".

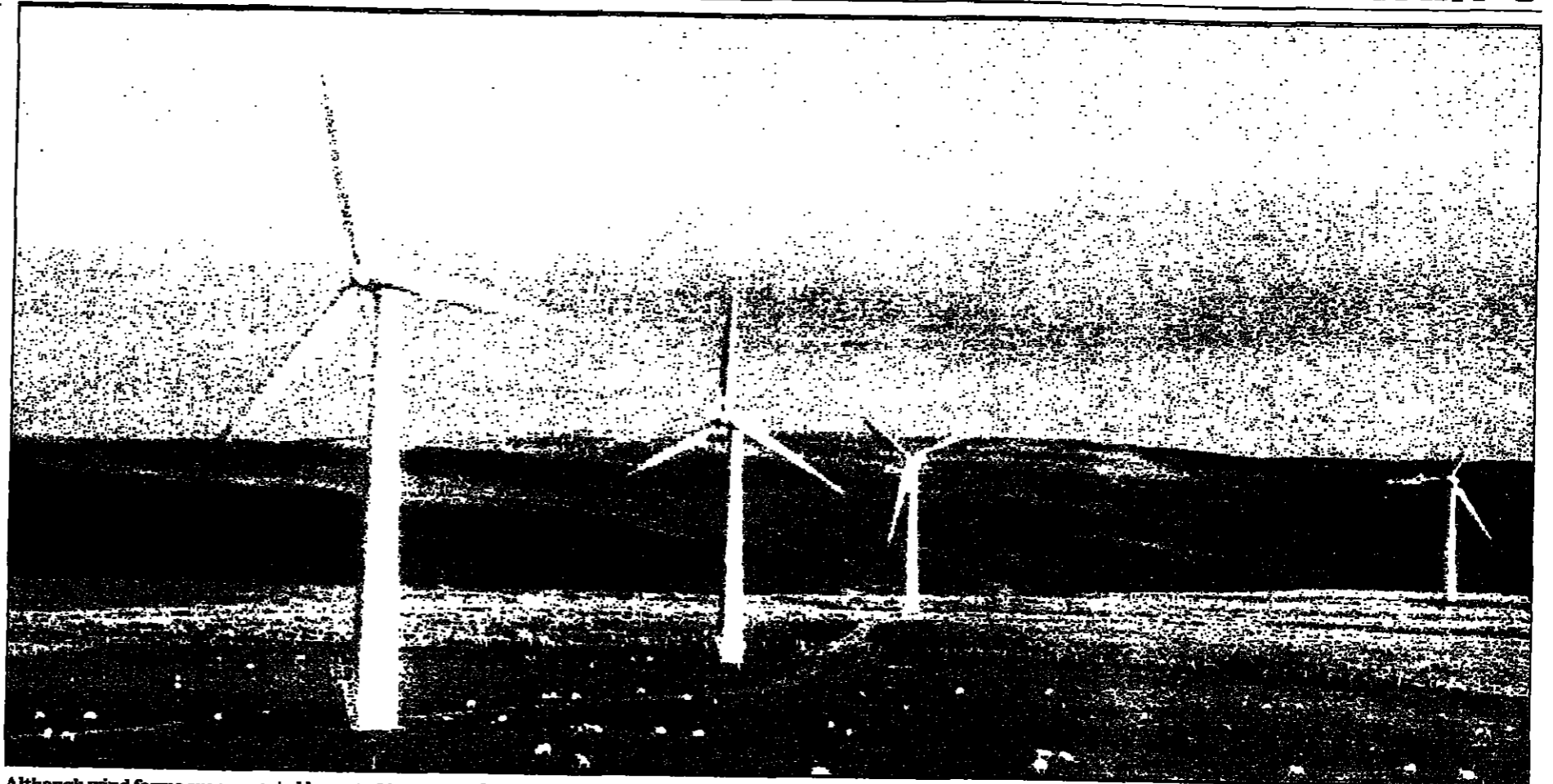
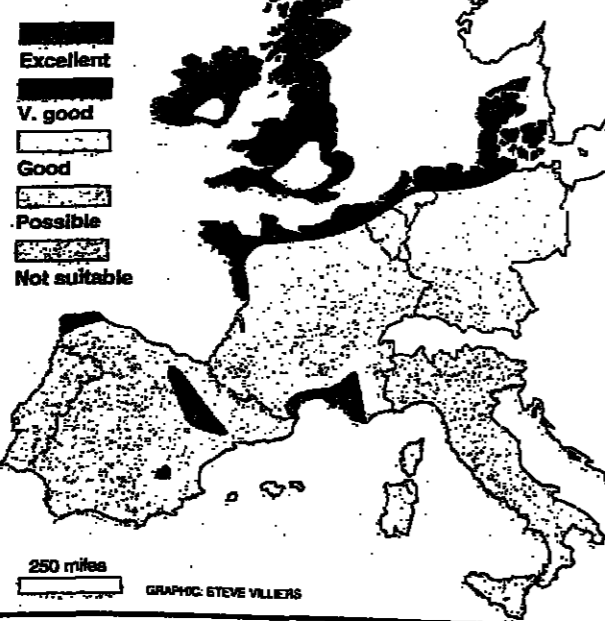
fuls of food around and tearing a new teddy bear to pieces. People blamed her for failing to control her child. She and her husband tightened up on discipline, but Louis just got worse.

SHAME ON YOU, RORY. "Massive price cuts"? Come on, BT, if that's true, our savings must be gargantuan. We're still at least 20% cheaper for international calls week-day evenings and all weekend. For details Free Call 0500 500 366. Mercury SmartCall. You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Potential Wind Resource. Inghar. Crossword decipher. TV aims. Rantzen says he...

مكازم التحصيل

Potential wind resource



Although wind farms are supported by up to 80 per cent of people, and Britain has 40 per cent of Europe's potential wind power, the Country Guardian group has helped block most plans

Ex-Thatcher aide delighted at group's success in thwarting schemes which stop renewable energy targets being met

Ingham protest blows out national wind farm plan

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

ASMALL, but highly organised pressure group involving Sir Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's former press secretary, is blocking attempts to build wind farms and is preventing the Government reaching its targets for renewable energy, the British Wind Energy Association said yesterday.

Environmental campaigner Jonathan Porritt said: "Much of what they say is ill-informed, narrow-minded emotional rubbish, but one cannot deny it has been very effective." Sir Bernard said he was delighted to have upset the wind lobby so much. The association said that between 70 and 80 per cent of

people in all surveys wanted more wind power, and only between 2 and 10 per cent wanted it stopped. The UK has 550 wind turbines producing electricity for 400,000 homes, about 10 per cent of Europe's total. The UK has about 40 per cent of Europe's potential wind power but is using less than 1 per cent of it. In Germany there were already 4,100 turbines, but there is far less potential. And because of Britain's greater wind resources, electricity produced by turbines is half the price here compared with Germany.

Worldwide, the wind energy industry was now worth \$1 billion, and that would double by the turn of the century. Britain needed a firm domestic order book to provide a launch pad for exports, which the industry estimated could provide 19,000 extra jobs. Wind power is now cheaper than nuclear energy, and new coal-fired power stations, but still more expensive than gas, although prices were coming down all the time.

Charles Secrett, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said that if the true costs of global warming and acid rain were included, wind power looked very cheap. It was the most advanced renewable technology.

Sir Bernard, vice-president of Country Guardian and an adviser to the nuclear industry, said his support of nuclear power had no effect on his opposition to wind power. He was against wind turbines because of the damage to the landscape.

"I am delighted we have upset them, it just goes to show how effective we are. There are no sinister backers, it is just a bunch of highly motivated individuals who are trying to stop useless forests of these things. Environmental campaigners that support these things are clearly aesthetically dead. They produce so little electricity that they hardly make any difference to the problem."

Robert Woodward, one of group's organisers, said Country Guardian had 200 members of whom half were individuals and the rest organisations opposing particular wind farms. The individuals paid £10 a year and the rest £30. One person had given £3,750 but there was no industry backing for the campaign, which was carried out by a dedicated band of individuals. He said: "I am as opposed to nuclear power as I am to wind power. Neither of them are part of the solution. What we need is energy efficiency."

Crossword puzzle pundits decipher Morse code for E

John Ezard on the mysterious initial of Oxford's most famous detective



John Thaw: character named after Cook's ship

CHIEF Inspector Morse's long-hidden Christian name was revealed yesterday as a 33-1 outsider: Endeavour. It was bestowed on the television detective by parents besotted by Quakerism and the explorer Captain Cook, whose ship was called Endeavour.

As an embarrassing Christian name, it turned out to be no great shakes. Quakers could do far worse. They used to call girls Chastity and boys Temperance, which would have been truly embarrassing for the beer-fancying Morse.

Even as a crossword puzzle, what publishers billed as "the last great Morse mystery" turned out distinctly substandard. The answer was disclosed before ordinary readers had a chance to scan the clues in Colin Dexter's new Morse novel, *Death is Now My Neighbour*, published yesterday.

John Grant, aged 72, an ex-Manchester Guardian man and retired Times crossword editor, worked it out easily in advance after reading the clues in a review copy, with the solution blacked out.

Books Etc. in London, had people queuing round the shop and half way down the block.

Maurice Early, aged 63, a crossword buff and retired telephone operator, had travelled by coach from Brighton to be there. Mr Early, who like Mr Dexter cut his teeth on the Observer's Ximenes crossword, said after hearing the book's clues, that Endeavour was the clear answer. Mr Grant was equally confident, though he added: "If I'm wrong, I've got egg on my face."

Mr Dexter was as pleased as his publishers at the lucrative turnout and betting shop fervour, boosted by a teaser advertising campaign. He said the name came from a friend of his wife who knew two New England sisters christened Detective and Endeavour.

The actor John Thaw, who plays him, said: "It sums up the guy in lots of ways." It was left to Kevin Whately, who plays Morse's honest, unassuming sidekick Sgt Lewis, to suggest the stunt was slightly contrived. Surely, he said, Morse's colleagues would have seen his name on routine police warrant sheets?

ITV aims for top ratings

£800m network strategy seeks to revamp weak Saturday night

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

ITV yesterday outlined its £800 million strategy for 1997, designed to reinforce its position as Britain's most popular channel.

The network is to invest in 22 new dramas and overhaul its flagging Saturday night schedules as it prepares for increased competition from cable, satellite and Channel 5, which launches next year. Marcus Plantin, ITV's network director, acknowledged in a glossy presentation to more than 2,000 advertisers at the London Palladium that times were "getting tougher".

ratings performance during the spring and summer, although it opened up a nine-point gap over BBC1 in the first week of the autumn new season.

On Sunday night unofficial ratings showed ITV had demolished BBC1's new epic drama *Rhodes*, which fell to 4.8 million against London's *Burning* (12.5 million). *Heartbeat* and *You've Been Framed* on ITV were watched by 13 million, while BBC1's *Pie in the Sky* rated 5.6 million and *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin* 7.3 million. Mr Plantin said ITV had a six-point strategy for 1997, involving more drama, special events, comedy and sport, continued investment in soaps, and a return to screen-

ing American series and movies.

On Saturday night, the network's Achilles heel, original drama from Britain and the US will be used to combat the pulling power of the National Lottery Live on BBC1.

Comedy, another traditional area of weakness for ITV, is to be bolstered by *Loved By You*, starring John Gordon Sinclair and *Holding the Baby*, featuring Nick Hancock.

In the daytime battle a new three-times-a-week magazine show, *Afternoon Live*, is to be presented by newcomer Bibi Bakken.

Factual programmes will include *Class*, an examination of the British class system by the makers of Hollywood Women.

Rantzen says her TV career is in jeopardy

ESTHER Rantzen fears that her future with the BBC is at stake following criticism of her journalistic methods, writes Andrew Cuff. In a confidential memorandum to John Birt, the director general, she said the Panorama reporter John Ware who attacked her in the Sun-

day Telegraph "has put my whole television career in jeopardy". Mr Birt ordered an inquiry into the row. Its findings are expected soon. The BBC said: "Ms Rantzen gave her evidence to the inquiry on a confidential basis and had no wish for it to be made public."

Mr Ware criticised Ms Rantzen for a programme in which hidden cameras were used to show that a brain-damaged patient was allegedly being neglected in hospital. Ms Rantzen listed 11 alleged inaccuracies in the article and made 12 detailed defences of the programme.

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ion on drug children
 October 8th
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Lack of money can seriously damage the health of those facing major surgery. David Hearst reports from Moscow

Prices that break Russian hearts

THREE prospective patients sat silently in the dark windowless room of the Scientific Centre of Surgery in Moscow, one of only four hospitals in Russia where heart bypass surgery is regularly performed.

A doctor entered, his white coat creased and unbuttoned. As a member of the "medical commission" it is his job to decide who to admit. He walked towards a young man wearing a rich brown leather jacket. The man leapt to his feet, instinctively reaching for his back pocket. "No no no," the doctor protested as a wad of 100,000 rouble notes instantly appeared. "Later, later..."

"Of course, you know what

you need to get in, don't you?" said the man on his left, a factory boss from the Urals. "Money."

"Do you think it was any different in the old days?" retorted a woman sitting in the corner, an accountant from Rostov-on-Don. "You had to pay for everything. You had to pay even the nurse before she would take away your urine sample, and every-one knew this."

This is what the ordinary Russian faces on entering a medical centre for major surgery.

On the other side of the admission room's plain white door leading to the restricted world of medical treatment, three doctors and a nurse sat debating the rights and wrongs of private medicine.

"We do do free operations," mused one. "Remember that five-year-old we operated on? I mean how can you refuse an operation to a person brought in in an emergency?" she asked the assembled company.

Very easily, judging by the stony looks of her colleagues. The subject soon turned to pay and conditions. "I have worked here for 35 years and do you know what I get as a nurse — 160,000 roubles [about £20] a month."

The woman doctor beside her explained: "This centre is financed only from the budget of the Academy of Science, which is very small. Last winter we were all sent on two month's unpaid leave."

So that was it. If the patients did not pay, the doctors

did not get paid. Hence the existence of a thick black file in the outpatients polyclinic containing a medical "menu".

A consultation with a professor: 97,130 roubles; an electrocardiogram: 26,500 roubles. And a heart bypass operation? The latest quoted price is between 28 million and 35 million roubles.

As one heart surgeon who worked in the centre put it: "The price is a great wall separating a great part of the patients from the necessary operation."

Gennady Vikhrev, another heart surgeon who has left the centre and is free to speak, said: "According to the constitution, all medical care is free. But there's one small problem. There is no possibility to get it free."

Private clinics specialising in heart surgery do not exist, but private beds do, costing 300,000 roubles a day. Moreover, if you are not from Moscow, none of the four main Moscow hospitals is obliged to admit you, even though there is no other in the country where the operation is done regularly.

For a surgeon like Mr Vikhrev, who has seen the operation performed in the United States, this is the vital point, not the relative lack of computer technology or the inconsistent supply of drugs in Russia.

"The surgical team needs practise. The financial situation makes it more and more difficult for each team to have an operation each day. I returned recently to the de-

partment where I used to work. They were all sitting there idle.

"They had no money. They had no blood, because there is currently a real shortage of blood from the Moscow transfusion stations, and this operation consumes an enormous amount of it. They did not have the drugs they needed and were using analogues to which they were not accustomed."

"Our surgeons' skills are not worse than the American ones. But if you asked me where I would operate on a close relative or a loved one, I would give you a clear answer. I would put him in a clinic where this operation is performed two or three times a day, not where they are scrambling from one opera-

tion to another, trying to keep the show on the road. That means I would send them to a Western clinic."

Boris Konstantinov, director of the Scientific Centre of Surgery, has had a heart bypass operation. But he was operated on in Germany.

The factory boss from the Urals was not sure whether he was going to take the risk of having the bypass. "I have had three heart attacks. You know my kidneys are weak. I'm not sure. As for that man Yeltsin..."

"I heard this morning from one of my doctors that the surgeons were refusing to operate on him. They say his liver is gone. I think they should put him down."

No one in the waiting room offered a word in protest.

'If you asked me where I would operate on a relative or a loved one, I would send them to a Western clinic'

'As for Yeltsin. The surgeons say his liver is gone. I think they should put him down'

Fury at Yeltsin 'cover-up'

David Hearst in Moscow

GENNADY ZYUGANOV, Russia's Communist leader, called on President Yeltsin to resign yesterday, saying that the cover-up of his heart attack in the final days of the election campaign amounted to fraud.

"The elections were not fair," Mr Zyuganov said. His call was backed by Gennady Seleznev, the Communist Speaker of the State Duma, who said Mr Yeltsin should step down if doctors decided tomorrow that he was too ill for an operation.

When parliament meets next week the Communist faction, the largest in the Duma, has promised to table a long-standing proposal that a medical commission should judge the fitness of the president and all top state figures.

Both statements were ignored on the state-run media and official news agencies, and the Kremlin maintained complete silence on the medical crisis for the second day running.

No one in power has commented on the revelation made four days ago by Professor Renat Akchurin, the surgeon chosen to perform heart-bypass surgery, that the president's heart was damaged by a heart attack just before the second round of elections in July. There has been a further report that he suffered a stroke and could work for only 15 minutes a day.

Junior presidential spokesmen have maintained that everything is proceeding as normal. "All I can tell you is that Michael Debaeky has arrived," said one.

The US cardiologist, father of the bypass technique, has been asked by the Kremlin to

advise the surgical team. An international congress on the history of cardiovascular surgery opens in Moscow today, in the absence of any official information from the Kremlin, the foreign participants are due to hold a press conference.

Tomorrow the "collegium" of Russian heart specialists will decide whether to operate on Mr Yeltsin. Little is known of how they will arrive at their decision or to whom they are responsible. They, too, are expected to hold a press conference.

The split among the Kremlin doctors widened when Prof Akchurin publicly criticised the medical team responsible for the president's day-to-day health, in particular for letting Mr Yeltsin shoot and hunt at his lodge in Zavidovo with the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

"I saw Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] two or three weeks ago. We have looked at results of his Zavidovo period. I cannot say I was too pleased with the results. He was tiring himself by hunting, fishing. This is not something we can recommend for this sort of patient."

While the medical case for postponing the operation for up to two months may be quite clear to Prof Akchurin, the political consequences of being ruled by a lame duck are not.

Unless the doctors come out with a clear statement, pressure will increase on Mr Yeltsin to sign a decree handing over all his powers to his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

An opinion poll published in today's Izvestia found that 75 per cent of those asked believed that Mr Yeltsin was not in control of his post.



Rebel Chechen fighters pose for a photograph with a former colleague, Amin, before her wedding ceremony in the capital Grozny at the weekend. The bride and her husband-to-be both fought in the rebel unit led by the Chechen field commander Shamil Basayev

West 'covering up mass fraud in Bosnian polls'

continued from page 1

in Bosnia for every eight polling stations. "When the polls closed, about 70 per cent of the polling stations were totally unsupervised, and under control of the DECs (local election commissions)," one Western observer said.

There are serious discrepancies across the country but the most egregious fraud appears to have been in Muslim-dominated areas. An OSCE source said that in central Sarajevo alone, 30,000 votes appear to have been cast on behalf of dead or missing Muslims. The number of voters is also suspiciously high around the Muslim-held town of Biham in the north-west.

The head of the International Crisis Group office in Sarajevo, Sir Terence Clark, a former British diplomat, said yesterday: "We call on the OSCE to explain the discrepan-

cies and if it can only be explained by fraud, then they should declare the elections null and void."

The OSCE argued yesterday there was no direct proof of fraud. Jeff Fischer, the OSCE elections director, said the turnout appeared high because the original estimate for the total electorate

— 2.9 million — had been too low. Over the weekend the OSCE revised the figure upwards to 3.2 million, suggesting a remarkably high turnout of 95 per cent.

The revised OSCE electorate figure defies demographic logic. It makes allowance for new voters coming of age since the 1990 election, but

radically revises downwards the war's death toll. It suggests there are 200,000 more voters now than in 1990. "It's as if nobody died at all throughout the entire war," a UN analyst said.

Diplomats say the estimate of a 2.9 million electorate was first put forward by OSCE experts in April. Three studies

Nations, setting up its headquarters at Kiseljak.

His early appointment will enable preparations for the handover between the two headquarters to go ahead immediately, even though most of the I-For troops are expected to stay until December and no final decisions on their successors have yet been

taken. Whereas Britain provides about 1,200 people for the Nato rapid reaction corps HQ — about 70 per cent of the total — the Landvoet headquarters in Germany contains only 240 Britons.

Gen Cordy-Simpson's chief of staff will be another British soldier, Major-General John Drewienkiewicz.

Jonathan Steele adds: The European Institute for the Media, which monitored Bosnian television and radio broadcasts throughout the campaign, said "the fairness of the democratic process was seriously marred".

The European Commission, which funded the media monitoring project, initially tried to soften its hard-hitting findings and then vainly urged the institute to delay publication of its report, a member of the team said.

Speaker's creaking bedsprings cause Finnish MPs to groan

Jon Henley in Helsinki

THE first time she made love to her future husband, the bed broke. Thirty-five years on, they are still rampantly at it — and the female Speaker of the Finnish parliament has written a book to prove it.

Riitta Uosukainen — the "Betty Boothroyd" of Finland — has sparked uproar with a book of imaginary letters, *Fluttering Flame*. Its first run, of 17,000 copies, sold out in three days in a land where politics are generally a sedate business, and the sexual freedom of nearby Sweden and Denmark has yet to be fully accepted.

Ms Uosukainen, aged 54, the highest-ranking politician after President Martti Ahtisaari and tipped as the

Conservatives' next candidate to succeed him, details her bedroom romps with her husband, Toivo, an army officer.

The tall and imposing former education minister with a no-nonsense reputation writes to "Mr U" in 1996: "Thanks for a wonderful weekend, for all the good loving. I submit to another person only when making love. Take me..."

Ms Uosukainen's fellow parliamentarians have been outraged by the book, which is equally blunt about some of them. She describes one MP as "a rattlesnake", another as "a porcupine politician".

The Speaker has defended her book, telling one newspaper: "There shouldn't be anything strange about a middle-aged woman enjoying herself."

Socialists favour women

Paul Webster in Paris

ALMOST a third of Socialist Party candidates in France's next general election will be women, following a recent agreement reached despite some male opposition.

Some of the 164 female nominees will face powerful rightwing leaders and have little chance of success.

But at least 40 women are likely to enter parliament in the March 1998 poll if the Socialists recover from their 1995 reverse, in which they lost more than 200 seats and retained only 53. Opinion polls suggest that the left should win back a majority in the 555-seat national assembly.

Of the 33 women in par-

liament only three are Socialists. Leftwing leaders, including François Mitterrand, often said they would introduce positive

'It's much easier to give up a seat to a woman in a bus than in the national assembly'

discrimination, but the present Socialist Party first secretary, Lionel Jospin, had to fight to get the measure through.

A former prime minister, Laurent Fabius, whose

local federation in Normandy tried to resist the measure against his advice, said: "It's much easier to give up a seat to a woman in a bus than in the national assembly."

But some campaigners remain unsatisfied. "We must go even further. We seem to have been given the honour of going down with flying colours against some of the most formidable rightwing leaders," said Yvette Roudy, a former women's rights minister.

Meanwhile, all opposition parties will meet on Thursday to prepare joint action against Jean-Marie Le Pen's far-right National Front.

It will be the first summit of its kind since the Union de la Gauche collapsed nearly 20 years ago.

News in brief

Challenge to election ban
The former Bulgarian prime minister Reneta Indzhova said yesterday she would appeal to the supreme court against the central electoral committee's refusal to register her for October's presidential election because her running-mate is still serving in the army. — Reuter.

Greek mandate
The Greek prime minister, Costas Simitis, said yesterday he had received a mandate from the president, Costas Stefanopoulos, to form a Socialist government for the next four years. — Reuter.

Drugs haul
Colombian police and soldiers destroyed more than a tonne of cocaine and cocaine paste after a raid on a drug labora-

tory in the south-east province of Guaviare, the authorities said yesterday. — Reuter.

Aid workers flee
A Red Cross organisation flew three aid workers out of the east Zaire town of Bukavu yesterday after heavy shelling by Rwanda. — Reuter.

Peacekeepers hurt
Four UN peacekeepers from Brazil were wounded in Angola on Sunday when their vehicle hit a land mine in the central province of Bia, the state news agency Angop said yesterday. — Reuter.

Hopes raised
Austria's president, Thomas Klestil, regained consciousness yesterday after three days on an artificial respirator, doctors said, lifting the secrecy around his illness since he entered hospital on September 13. — Reuter.

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Treaty to end 5 of nucle

Stopgap replaces

مكازم التجميل

Talking and bombing

Yesterday's raids need not stall the peace talks

NO ONE will ever know who they are, but there are people alive this morning who would have been killed by the IRA this week had the police not done what they did yesterday.

As ever, there are alternative ways of looking at the evidence. Some observers claim that the twin track tactics of republican politicians and terrorists are not coordinated at all, that they are proof at least of erratic decision-making within the republican movement and possibly that Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness do not control the entire republican movement.

Yet relief is the easy bit. Yesterday's raids also raise wider questions about the IRA's intentions, and have inevitable implications for developments in Northern Ireland.

Much therefore depends on the Northern Ireland talks, which are now at a tantalising and delicate moment. The two main political parties, the Unionists and the SDLP, appear quite close to what would be an important agreement on the talks agenda.

A virtue unable to speak its name

Politicians ignore it but tactical voting may swing the election

SURPRISINGLY little has been heard about tactical voting over the last few years. The excitement and detailed speculation that the idea used to provoke when it was first seriously propounded in the run-up to the 1987 general election have ebbed away recently.

that sparked angry exchanges yesterday, provoking Menzies Campbell, one of the party's least tribal MPs, to distance himself from the proposal.

Speaking at the Guardian's fringe meeting at the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday, Lord Rodgers put the issue firmly back on today's agenda. In a powerful speech, the former member of the SDP Gang of Four called on Liberal Democrat voters to vote Labour at the next general election if the Labour candidate in their local constituency stands a better chance of defeating the Conservative.

Yet that is because, deep down, these activists know that tactical voting is here to stay for as long as the Conservatives remain in power. The 17 years of Tory rule have rightly stimulated an immense readiness among many voters to subordinate their first preference to the need to defeat the Conservatives.

All wired up but nothing to pay

Commerce has found it impossible to colonise the Net

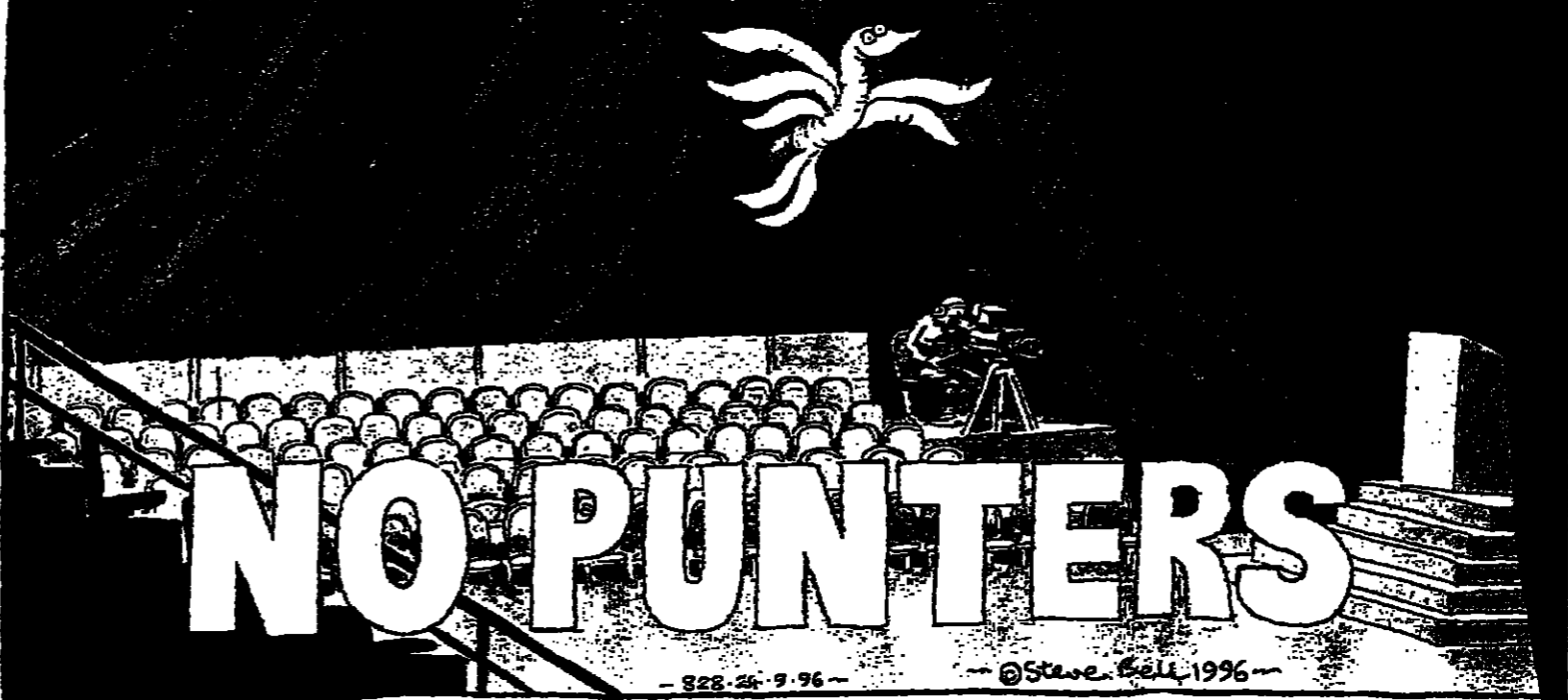
COMPANIES hooked up to the Internet — the world-wide network of computers enabling users to access anything from electronic newspapers to video clips — are worried their staff are wasting time "surfing the Net" instead of working, according to a report published yesterday.

charge for the magazine but meets customer resistance. As Dr Myhrvold says, why pay for stuff on the Net when a million free sites are a mere click away?

The reason according to Nathan Myhrvold, a top executive at Microsoft, is simple: content is chasing customers and not vice versa. He writes in the new issue of the Microsoft-funded electronic magazine, Slate, published on the Net yesterday. Microsoft would like to

But what is bad news for corporations is a joy for free-loading punters. Against strong commercial pressures the Internet has (so far) maintained the philosophy of its founding fathers by being a Utopian economy where most products are free. Instead of commerce colonising the Net, the reverse has happened. Products have — enforcedly — been given away free ranging from 30 million copies of the Netscape browser software to hundreds of newspapers.

NEW LIBDEMS



Letters to the Editor

Of sex, sin and the Bishop

OF COURSE I shall pray for Jeremy Hardy (A wing, a prayer and quick fix, September 21), as I hope he will for me, if he wants to. But what Hardy wants is the puzzle. Does he really want the Roman Catholics less repressive and the Anglicans less bland, so that those who seek "elevation and comfort" might safely take out membership? Or does he want us all as obscurantist or insipid as possible, so that our cultured despisers can carry on despising?

As one who was ordained two years ago, I know that the atmosphere in which I was trained made a mature, considered option for life-long celibacy impossible. I recall a claustrophobic, virtually all-male environment, where students were infatigable in the interests of discipline. Emotional development was frozen, or even pushed back to a pre-pubescent stage.

whom she quotes so lovingly — chiefly rose to fame as the apparition chosen by Rome to suppress this "heresy" and invent the primacy of "original sin".

celibacy. Have these women no will power? Are they unable to say "No"?

THIS past week, in several places, I have been invited to pray "for the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, for the healing of wounds and the rebuilding of lives". From an Anglican priest, voluntarily celibate, more than that would have been an impiety.

ALICE Thomas Ellis (Why my tastes remain strictly Catholic, September 21) wrongly believes "liberalism" to be a modern Catholic phenomenon. Its first promulgator was fourth century English monk Pelagius, and so effective were his teachings that St Augustine —

JOANNA Whibley went to Roderick Wright for support and counselling at the break-up of her marriage. He chose to engage her in a sexual relationship. She went for counselling, she came away with a child. He has done the same with Kathleen MacPhee.

FATHER John Buckley (Letters, September 19) presents the church as a beacon of stability in a world of falling standards. In fact the Second Vatican Council moved the goalposts when it upgraded married life as an equal commitment to God alongside the religious life and priestly celibacy.

AN irritating aspect of the Roderick Wright affair has been the platitudinous comment by certain senior clerics about the miraculous improvements which have, supposedly, been made to the training of Catholic priests.



The result was that hundreds of nuns left to get married and celibacy was left stranded as merely a law without ideological underpinning.

WHY does Canon Law take precedence over the advice of St Paul — "It is better to marry than to burn" (1 Corinthians, Ch 7 v 8). Surely the precepts handed down by a father of your church are of greater import than the laws made by a medieval Pope?

PERHAPS the rules of chess should be revised to include another piece — the Pope, which would move in mysterious ways to block any diagonal transgression of the Bishop.

Style file

SOME years ago I too indulged in an exercise to improve my public image (Real value of the 500m squiggles, September 19). I gave my rusty old Capri a respray in a subtle shade of paint called "Rootas mid-grey".

Complaint cut to the quick

IT was very pleasing to read (Letters, September 19) of Roger Ward's solidarity with those in the further education sector. His description of funding cuts in recent years is very accurate, and one hopes that in his new role as Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges he will plead this desperate case as he visits each party conference.

learning and experience. He owes this to today's over-worked college lecturers, and to the hundreds of former colleagues who view this from the outside, having taken their skills and experience elsewhere.

Ringing off

THE use of mobile phones with an external ringing sound can be banned under the Noise Abatement Act (Letters, September 20). Alternatives are:

Sport hand-outs had flying start

YOUR report (Poor hope of rich pickings, September 13) fails to inform your readers of the reality of the Lottery Sports Fund.

YOUR list of Lottery Sports Awards excludes the two highest beneficiaries of LSF awards to date, namely swimming (over 500m) and multi-sports facilities (over 500m).

(£18m to date with 222 awards) because it has consistently put forward good applications that meet our defined criteria. Cricket, at local club level, has made the second highest number of applications to date behind football (£21m with 228 awards).

A Country Diary

THE ESTEREL. At this time of year, and in this place, you can normally tell the date accurately by the swallows. They colonise every inch of the ledges on sea-side buildings, pausing, exactly according to schedule, for a few days' respite on the Cote d'Azur, before flying on south to winter in Africa.

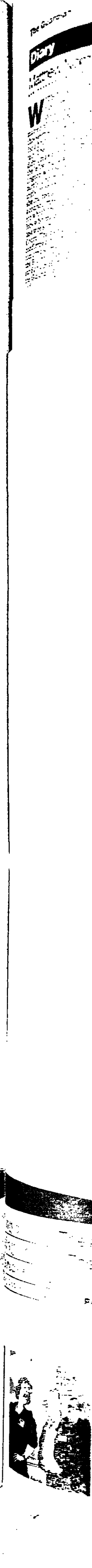
Put a ceiling on house prices

IN the "bidding" for the young vote at the next election nothing is going to beat a firm promise to do something about house prices. Particularly for first-time buyers and especially if prices are again at the point of "take-off".

It cannot be right that today's first-time buyer has to pay the equal of four years' salary to buy the sort of house his forebears of 20-30 years ago bought for one year's pay in the same sort of job.

Express post

IN his remarks on Sue Douglas and the Sunday Express (Guardian Media, September 16) Roy Greenslade says: "The paper was in free fall on her arrival". Nonsense. The decline had been arrested and sales were looking to go up when I left the editorship of the paper.



مكتبة التجميل

Diary Matthew Norman

WITH Labour's NEC meeting tomorrow to lay to rest the vexed matter of Leeds North East, this seems the perfect time for a brief recap of the affair. The candidate who didn't make it is Liz Davies, the left-wing lawyer from Islington who was defeated...

The offer Ashdown won't refuse

Commentary Hugo Young

THIS Liberal Democrat conference may be the last of its kind. We are present at what could soon be a museum piece. But the party members attending in Brighton seem insufficiently aware of the historic moment...

That much has been trailed as the product of his summer reading. Less well advertised is the extremity of the moral he draws for the future. Yet the moral is to be seen quite clearly in other parts of his operations. Blair has reformed the Labour Party, but remains deeply scornful of party seen as tribe...

he will come to nothing, without long-term strategy which will assuredly not enlist every sectarian in the tribe of which he is chief. Timid glimpses of this are to be found in parts of the Lib Dem mind-set at Brighton. It's now easier than it used to be for an MP like Menzies Campbell to talk openly about partnering Labour in a hung Parliament...

There's chat about whether or not Liberal Democracy really is different from Social Democracy

risk with his own party, he knows very well that Ashdown would insist on a partnership between sovereign, separate entities: an alliance of unequals, yes, but pluralist politics taken into majority government — a Lib Dem dream come true, another culture-shock for old Labour politicians.

PREPARING his script for a Newswight item last week on the day the story broke, Jeremy Paxman described Bishop Roskirk Wright as "one of Scotland's leading leftists". Naturally, he removed the jokey line long before he went on air — but not, alas, before the script had reached the Ceefax subtitles office, as the number of complaints from deaf Catholics confirms.

I AM intrigued by an independent interview with actor Christopher Eccleston, star of Our Friends in the North. Although prepared to plug his latest role in Jude, and to confirm his age as 32, Mr Eccleston refuses to discuss anything else, however impersonal. For example, asked by Robert Crampton what his father did for a living, he replies: "No, I won't give it to you. I'm not prepared to do it. Forget it."

DIARY item of a month ago, in which we mused on Harold Evans's possible plans to return to Eltham, has proved uncharacteristically, and presciently, Daily Express columnist Peter Tatchell, whose recollections of an acting career have so enchanted readers of the new Funch, reports that "a chum of mine saw Mr Evans in a corner shop in Minister Lovell the other day", and that "Mr Evans told my chum he was 'kay'ing the rectory". All credit to Mr Tatchell for what is, by any standards, just as good a scoop as the London Evening Standard's report of September 4 that Mr Evans was buying the Old Rectory, in Minister Lovell in Oxfordshire.

ELSEWHERE at the Express group, meanwhile, there is concern that Richard Addis may duplicate the poaching strategy that marked his early editorship of the Daily Express. Now he has his hands on the Sunday title, the obvious target is the Mail on Sunday and its columnist. One rumour suggests that Mr Addis is after Oswald, the white cotton handkerchiefs to which his owner, Jonathan Holborow, a former shepherd, chats excitedly at times of tension. "God help us if Oswald defects," says one executive. "That hanky's been running things here for ages, and it's doubtful whether Holborow could do without him."

IN New York, a newly wed woman is suing a radio station after being announced the winner of an "ugliest bride" contest. Two DJs from WPXJ picked the bride they considered most hideous from a local paper, reports the matter, and invited listeners to guess her identity.

VERY INSPIRING GO BACKLAND (PREPARE FOR LABOUR CONGRESS)



RESERVERS of the social scene would do well to start paying less attention to the Glorious 12th of August — when upper-class guns are again unleashed upon the bird kingdom — and more to the Glorious 12th of September, when our masters turn upon each other. More precisely on Ken Clarke.

There is no time to lose in the modern Conservative Party. The holidays are over and the party conference is less than a month away. If the policy is to be changed or better still, the leadership, now is the moment to stir the emotions of the activists who head for the seaside. For three years after the débâcle — September 16, 1992 — over Britain's exit from the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM), the target of the Tory Euro-sceptics and their Fleet St patrons was John Major himself, with Douglas Hurd as the sub-plot.

When Major turned on his tormentors in July 1995, but sacrificed Hurd in the process, his chancellor became the scops' prime target. Occasionally Clarke protests. He did so after Sunday's Telegraph revealed on page one, courtesy of a new French book on the ERM, that the traitor chancellor had personally intervened to "save" the ailing system when it was finally on the point of collapse in 1993. The claim is flatteringly true: it had been examined last year by Philip Stephens's Politics Of The Pound. But never mind. The Glorious 12th has been unexpectedly lively this year. Assorted Tory "grandees" led by Hurd and Ted Heath have had the temerity to shoot back at their tormentors. Feathers fly.

It is an astonishing spectacle, more dangerous than Labour's gratuitous feuding, because the Tories are in greater peril and have a policy most rational beings on both sides of the argument should scotch for. It is that they cannot all wait and see what comes of the Franco-German drive to create a single European currency, starting (slowly) in 1999 and — if it both materialises and succeeds — whether it suits Britain to join, right away (as Clarke provocatively hinted this week) or later, as both Blair and Major would probably prefer. As to the substance of the matter, there are good arguments on both sides of the single-currency debate. Speaking personally, as one who voted Yes to Europe in 1975, I doubt both the wisdom and the efficacy of the Bonn-Paris push towards economic and political union. I do not think they have the political mandate or the money to make the project stick. Others, Clarke among them, think the word was cast long ago by the bloody-mindedness that drives Ted Heath. As a student he stood a few feet from Hitler. Next time he went back, it was in a tank.



Both Clarke, with his enormous resilience and zest for politics, is the symbolic enemy. He can and will look after himself. It is doubtful that he loses any sleep over the attacks. With Clarke, who you see is what you get: the sartorial elegance of a left-wing car salesman, all mismatched ties, beer belly and crumpled suits, the instincts of a bruiser married to the tastes of a criminal lawyer. Blockbuster plus Cambridge and the Bar: meretricious man.

Far from worrying, he may be chomping cheerily on his cigar at the thought that a stunning bust, however unlikely, or even a near miss, could rapidly reverse his fortunes in the party. If ever a man was cut out to lead the opposition against an untested government it is Bruiser Ken.

Do not disturb the leader

Boris Yeltsin is not the first man at the top to conceal his condition. Isabel Hilton takes the pulse of some historic deceivers

THERE has been a lot of muttering at the news that Boris Yeltsin is unfit to perform his duties — and that he's been less than truthful about his state of health. The Russian voters were not told that their favourite candidate had a heart attack in the middle of the presidential election campaign. This should surprise nobody, and certainly nobody with a sense of history. Concealing the leader's incapacity is a long and honourable tradition. It's easy to sneer at the Russians, who certainly have an impressive record in this regard, beginning with Lenin, who struggled on for nearly a year after suffering no fewer than three strokes. Leonid Brezhnev was heavily dosed on tranquilizers and sleeping pills for a decade before he died, and managed to rule the USSR for six years after being pronounced clinically dead (in 1976).

Most of the 20th-century dictators who died in their beds as opposed to their bankiers did so after a long twilight of concealed degeneration. Mao Zedong was clearly ga-ga for at least two years before his death, and General Franco and Tito

Dangerous liaisons of the stars



Francine Stock

THAT Joan Bakewell and Harold Pinter were lovers 30 years ago, that the plot of Betrayal is in fact their story has an artistic congruence. It's also a good yarn, as the column inches of the past two days demonstrate. Celebrity coupling has mass appeal. The more the stars, the more the public. In fact, real-life drama are thoroughly confused with their professional personas. Blame Patsy for Liam's troubles with the band. How could Hugh do that to Liz? Does Nicole Kidman wear the trousers in the Cruise household? Amateur psychologists and marriage counsellors discuss on the basis of watching the stars' performances on stage or screen. It's soop with the lightest sprinkling of reality.

she found women artists subjugating their careers to a male teacher or lover. The English artist Stella Bowen wrote of the disastrous effect her affair with the novelist Ford Madox Ford had on her work: "Pursuing an art is not just a matter of finding the time — it is a matter of having a free spirit to bring it on. . . . Ford did not understand that the role of 'consort to another and more important artist', as she put it, consumed all her creative vitality. Greer cites another Englishwoman, Carrington, who also succeeded in creating a great love instead of great art."

But some presume to do both. Amongst the other Bloomsburys were Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. Even in the boozed and bawled of Lillian Hellman and David Hammett, there was, sporadically, creation. The paintings by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo often depict shocking scenes from their domestic drama. Domestic conflict as well as harmony can be helpful to the artist. Feminism has concluded that in famous heterosexual partnerships the women come off worse. Yet Simone de Beauvoir, a grand-mère of the movement, never renounced her relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre. She might have been a greater artist without it, but his frustrations and misery were nonetheless a spur to achievement, and her work in part reflected from him. For later readers, if not so much for her contemporaries, the interest in her fiction lies in the thinly veiled portrait of that famous liaison. In her journals her painting, painstaking chronicle of his final decade, her detailed study of his illness and death is of interest because of Sartre's stature; without that reputation, it might look like indulgence.

WHIST another famous person may be sympathetic to the pressures of fame, those pressures multiply once the two of them become a couple. You may start by finding the one person who understands that you can only be shot from the left, but his obsession with his (non-existent) double chin soon begins to grate. The insecurity that travels with many people who seek fame will be tolerated least by someone who shares it. How can the System be against you when it has just rewarded me? Very few celebrity pairings survive — pace the Newman-Woods — except where the career of one is cut down as fuel for the other. Or that, at least, has been the 20th-century conclusion — that love and individual fulfilment are at odds. Cyril Connolly's observation that there was no more subtle enemy of good art than the pram in the hall, passed through the feminist perspective into Germaine Greer's analysis of female painters in The Obstacle Race. Time and time again, Harold Pinter's Betrayal always felt like a true romance. The trouble was, the commentators had mostly got the wrong woman, attributing the character of Emma to Lady Antonia Fraser, now Pinter's wife, when it should have been Joan Bakewell. You might say this has been the perfect celebrity union — conducted with discretion at the time and proving very fruitful in artistic terms over the following decades. Mr Pinter wrote a powerful play. Ms Bakewell, who has made some considerable study of moral issues, has spoken in the past about the moral dilemma of her own adultery, without naming names. Lady Antonia apparently based much of her thrilling heroine Jennima Shore on Ms Bakewell. And Michael Billington, Mr Pinter's biographer, has now got the full version that ties up all the loose ends and will sell copies of his book when it appears shortly. After a long pause, a happy ending.

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LARRY ELLIOTT examines the strength behind the arguments for putting up interest rates — and for cutting them

City surrogates fight Clarke-v-George battle

Optimist Price is right

WITH the election only seven months away, Kenneth Clarke gladly acknowledges that the economy is picking up steam, but he is reluctant to raise rates because:

- Inflation is low. According to the Retail Prices Index, the annual inflation rate has fallen from 2.9 per cent in January to 2.1 per cent in August. Excluding mortgage interest payments, it has remained steady at 2.8 per cent, but analysts expect it to fall within the Government's 1-2.5 per cent target range over the coming months.
- Inflationary pressure is weak. The price of goods leaving factories rose by 2 per cent in the year to August, compared with 3.6 per cent in January.
- The labour market is behaving differently from previous recoveries. Despite almost four years of decline in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit, average earnings have remained flat. They rose by only 3.75 per cent in the year to July, compared with a low point of 7.5 per cent in the whole of the 1980s.
- Economic recovery is patchy. As the Construction Industry Employers Council said in its budget submission yesterday, construction output has shrunk by 11 per cent since 1990 and is set to decline again in 1996. Manufacturing output in the three months to July was down on a year earlier.
- Britain's economy has been underperforming and has plenty of spare capacity. Gross domestic product rose by only 0.4 per cent in each of the past three quarters, leaving the annual rate of growth at just 1.7 per cent. The Treasury believes the economy has potential to grow by 2.5 per cent a year on average.
- Real (inflation-adjusted) interest rates are already high enough. Although base rates are historically low at 5.75 per cent, so is inflation at 2.1 per cent. The real interest rate of 3.65 per cent is the highest in the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

THE City was lining up in rival camps behind Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George yesterday as the Chancellor and the Governor met at the Treasury to renew their argument over the level of interest rates.

While most analysts believed that the discussions would result in the Chancellor deciding to leave the cost of borrowing unchanged at 5.75 per cent, there were calls both for an increase in rates and for further reductions.

Marian Bell, UK economist at Royal Bank

of Scotland, said: "I agree with the Governor. Base rates should not have been cut in June and the economy is now starting to grow strongly."

"I doubt whether the target of having underlying inflation (excluding mortgage interest payments) below 2.5 per cent by the end of this Parliament will be achieved. If the Government does want to achieve its inflation target rates ought to be higher."

But Gerard Lyons, chief economist at Japanese firm DKB, said: "I think there should be at least one more rate cut. The argument

that the economy is overheating is completely misplaced. The economy has been growing at a sluggish pace for several quarters and is only just starting to gather momentum. A rate rise would choke off the recovery before it has even got going."

Michael Saunders, at Salomon Brothers, believes there is no need for a change either way. "With real growth picking up, further base rate cuts are unnecessary," he said. "However, with lead inflation guides pointing down, there is no real need for an immediate rate hike."

Pessimist Stock answer

EDDIE George is concerned that the Chancellor may be turning a blind eye to the risks of the economy overheating because dearer borrowing would be unwelcome in the run-up to polling day. The Governor wants interest rates to rise because:

- The economy's growth pause is over. GDP is expected to expand much more rapidly in the second half of 1996 than it did in the first half, and by well over 3 per cent in 1997. Much of the slowdown has been caused by firms meeting orders from stockpiles but this process is now over. Consumer spending, investment and stock building are likely to drive the economy rapidly forward.
- The Government is finding it hard to hit its inflation target. Underlying inflation has been outside the target range for more than 18 months, remaining at 2.8-2.9 per cent despite the slowdown in the economy.
- Britain is in the early stages of a consumer boom. Retail sales rose by 1 per cent in August, house prices are up by more than 5 per cent over the past year, borrowing from banks and building societies is up by almost 10 per cent on a year ago, spending on debit and credit cards was 27 per cent higher last month than a year earlier.
- Both of the normally used measures of the money supply are outside their monitoring ranges. Narrow money (M0) — mainly notes and coins in circulation — has been well above its 0-4 per cent range, while broad money growth (M4), which also includes bank and building society accounts, has been accelerating steadily. It currently stands at 9.4 per cent, above its 3-9 per cent monitoring range.
- Pay awards are starting to pick up in the private sector, and real disposable incomes are set to be boosted by windfall gains from the Halifax flotation next year, rebates from the privatised utilities and any tax cuts in the November Budget.

PHOTOMONTAGE: LESLIE MCCARTHY

FBI aids Fed leak inquiry

Mark Tran in New York

THE Federal Reserve has called in the FBI to investigate a highly embarrassing leak revealing that a near-majority of the US central bank's policy-making body is pushing for higher interest rates.

Brent Bowen, the Fed's inspector-general, has asked the FBI to help trace the person responsible for the leak. Last Tuesday, a Reuters news report in Chicago quoted a "senior Fed official" as saying that eight of the Fed's 12 district banks were in favour of raising the federal funds rate — the rate for overnight bank loans — by a quarter-point to 5.50 per cent.

News of the leak inquiry coincided with a fresh bout of nervousness about an imminent tightening of monetary policy on Wall Street, where the Dow plunged more than 50 points in early trading but recovered later.

The Fed's Open Market Committee, made up of seven governors of the Federal Reserve and the presidents of its 12 regional banks, meets today to consider monetary policy. The committee is said to be deeply divided on the need for tighter policy — a division mirrored in Wall Street.

Despite the long-running expansion, inflation remains tame, although there are signs of tightening labour markets and the beginnings of pressure on wages.

Minutes from FOMC meetings in July and August show that pressure is building on chairman Alan Greenspan to raise rates. In July, Gary Stern, of the Minneapolis Fed, cast a rare dissenting vote, opting for an increase.

In the news agency report, Minneapolis, Richmond and San Francisco banks are said to be pushing for a half-point rise in the discount rate, while five others favoured a quarter-point rise.

The report also said that a consensus was forming for a quarter-point increase in the more important federal funds rate. Inflation doves believe the economy is slowing of its own accord, making tighter monetary policy unnecessary.



Inchcape on road to recovery — with some way to go

OUTLOOK/Back-to-basics strategy is proving to be not that simple in practice. Pauline Springett reports

THE official story is that Inchcape is on the road to recovery. Its management has been revamped and an ambitious restructuring is well under way. The actual figures are looking somewhat wan, but the reorganisation dates only from last March so it would be unfair to expect the earth just yet.

As Sir Colin Marshall, Inchcape's chairman, said yesterday: "We are confident that the business as currently constituted, will show good recovery over the comparative period, leading to an increase in our headline profits before exceptional charges and tax for the full year."

But it is difficult to share Sir Colin's optimism unreservedly. True, the company has already started withdraw-

ing from non-performing operations, such as its Swiss motor franchises. But so far there has been no impact on Inchcape's bottom line.

The phenomenal rise in pre-tax profits was actually due to the absence of last year's extraordinary charge of nearly £55 million. Stripping out the exceptional reveals first-half profits of £22.8 million, almost unchanged from the 1995 figure of £23.3 million.

On the plus side, the company is apparently close to achieving two main prongs of the restructuring process — the sale of Inchcape Testing Services and the demerger of Bain Hogg. However, as so often with Inchcape, even these two moves are not proving straightforward.

The sale of the testing division for £380 million to a consortium led by the venture capital arm of Charterhouse Bank has been widely flagged. But, contrary to expectations, the sale was not announced as a done deal yesterday. Naturally, this prompted speculation that something might have gone wrong. Chief executive Philip Cushing found himself driven to assert: "It [the sale] will be completed in the fairly near future. There are no hitches."

Testing Services checks product quality and performance standards for importers and exporters. Although it is doing well — its operating profits rose by 37 per cent to £15.7 million — it is not a core business and the sale proceeds will help Inchcape to reduce its gearing.

The divestment of Bain Hogg, the company's insurance-brokerage subsidiary, has been more problematic. Originally, a flotation was mooted, but that was abandoned in favour of a trade sale. Several potential buyers put their hands up, but Inchcape decided that none was offering enough money. A demerger is now the favoured option, un-

Inchcape

Stock market value £1.5 bn
Share price 292.5p ▼ 10p
Workforce 40,000
Interest cover 4.9

Main activity: distribution group, imports, distributors and sells cars. Also soft drinks, consumer and industrial products and office equipment.

	£	% change
Sales	3,161.8m	+1
Pre-tax profit	75.3m	+305
Earnings per share	7.3p	1995 loss
Dividend	5.25p	-30

Operating profit £m 1995-96

Category	1995	1996
Motor distribution	25	25
Motor retail	15	15
Marketing	10	10
Boating	5	5
Business machines	5	5
Shipping	5	5

Murdoch son's role prompts speculation

Lisa Buckingham

SPECULATION that Rupert Murdoch is grooming his elder son to take over the running of the News Corporation media empire intensified yesterday when it emerged that Lachlan has been promoted to managing director of News Limited, the Australian operation.

The latest step up the News Corporation ladder for Lachlan — just 25 years old this month — comes less than a year after he was made deputy chief executive of the group's Australian subsidiary, and is another sign of his meteoric rise through the company in the two-and-a-half years since he graduated from Princeton University.

He joined News Limited in 1994 as general manager of Queensland Newspapers, although he had worked in various capacities, including for the UK newspapers, while still a student.

Lachlan moved to the centre of power in News Corporation last year when he became a member of a key committee that determines the strategic direction of the global media group.

Lachlan is, however, not the only one of Mr Murdoch's offspring to be employed in a senior position within the News Corporation group. Elisabeth, the eldest child of Mr Murdoch's current marriage, was earlier this year appointed as a senior manager at BSkyB, the British-based satellite broadcaster in which News Corporation owns 40 per cent of the shares.

Mr Murdoch's youngest child, James, appeared initially reluctant, but now seems to accept the idea of a career in "the family firm" — regarded as such even though the Murdochs own only 31 per cent of the group's shares.

Ken Cowley, the News Limited chief executive, will be unaffected by the promotion of Lachlan Murdoch, to whom he is said to have been acting as something of a mentor.

Mr Cowley said that Murdoch Jr will concentrate on managing News Group operations and would continue to report to him. The chief executive said he would be "intimately involved" in shaping the group's strategic direction to cope with the challenges of technology and competition.

It is understood that Mr Murdoch's responsibilities will run wider than the Australian newspaper business, possibly involving News Corporation's joint ventures, the Arsetts airline and Foxsat pay-TV service.

Mr Murdoch, who said his progress through News Limited had been made possible with the support of Mr Cowley and other executives, is expected to fill the role previously held by Bob Muscat, the chief operating officer who left recently to join rival John Fairfax Holdings.

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Gold traders gamble on IMF vote

Sellers see poverty relief plan as bonanza, says Dan Atkinson

COLOSSAL bets in world gold markets are riding on approval this week of a plan to sell 150 tonnes of bullion, held by the International Monetary Fund, in order to help some of the world's poorest countries.

So-called "short" positions were near record levels over the weekend as millions of dollars were gambled on a Yes vote from the IMF's leading members.

Should Germany, Italy and Switzerland — three prominent objectors — block the plan, speculators who have

obtaining better prices now than after the IMF decision.

Such a move would contradict Dutch practice of maintaining a similar proportion of gold to total reserves as Germany's 30 per cent.

Another suggestion, guaranteed to strike panic into anyone running a short gold position, was that Japan — largely uncommitted one way or another — was coming round to the German position and would vote against the sale.

Ranged against Germany is a group led by the United States, which insists that some gold be sold before it makes its national contribution to the poorer countries. Bullion prices have been

weak ahead of the vote; gold closed in London on Friday at \$381.5 a troy ounce, perilously close to the key level of \$380. Earlier this year it had been as high as \$415.

The plan before the IMF would involve selling 30 tonnes a year for the next five years, investing the proceeds and using the interest to assist chronic debtor nations.

Annual sales of 30 tonnes ought to have little impact on the overall shortfall of gold supply against demand, of between 300 and 500 tonnes, and represent only 0.08 per cent of the 34,400 tonnes held by central banks and international organisations such as the IMF and European Monetary Institute.

Wales
loose w
David Plummer
American Football
panthers
shkalan
reak Aga's

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Soccer

Instant suspension for Poole

Peter White

GARY POOLE, the Birmingham City defender, was last night suspended from all football activity by the Football Association after allegations that he assaulted the Huddersfield referee Richard Poulain at Manchester City's Maine Road ground on Saturday. Poole, 29, has been told he must appear before an FA disciplinary commission at Lancaster Gate a week next Monday, October 7, to answer charges of misconduct and assault. The Birmingham manager Trevor Francis said last night that he would request a personal hearing for the former Tottenham full-back. "I was very surprised to hear from the FA that Gary had been suspended. I had planned to play him in the Coca-Cola Cup game against Coventry City but quickly had to change my thinking," said Francis. "It has surprised me that the ban has been imposed so quickly. It seems the Football Association have reacted to the referee's report and have not watched a video recording of the incident." Poulain, a driver with a pri-

Everton sights on Holdsworth

Ian Ross

DEAN HOLDSWORTH'S desire to leave Wimbledon for a club with a higher profile may well be granted this week, ironically just as he has patched up his differences with Joe Kinnear, his manager. Everton are seriously considering receiving their interest in the £5 million-rated England B striker after learning that Duncan Ferguson not only requires more surgery, but has also been given a two-game ban for his sending-off at Blackburn on Saturday. The difference between Kinnear's valuation and the £3 million on offer from Joe Royle, the Everton manager, may be resolved by compromise. Ferguson's suspension came as a surprise to Everton, who had assumed his dismissal at Ewood Park was for a second bookable offence. But the match referee David Gillery confirmed yesterday that the Scot had been sent off for using foul and abusive language, an offence carrying a mandatory two-game ban. Leeds United's Carlton Palmer, sent off controversially against Newcastle on Saturday, will serve an automatic one-match ban, against Nottingham Forest on Octo-

Smart about-turn by board puts Cambridge United up for sale

CAMBRIDGE UNITED, sixth in the Third Division, were put up for sale yesterday. Their chairman Reg Smart said: "My colleagues and I have given everything we can to the club. We now feel that a fresh injection of funds, and individuals on the board, will give the club the boost it needs to develop." Cambridge, on gates of just over 2,000, are believed to be losing more than £1,000 a day. Smart added: "It's a sad day for me. I have argued against this up to now but we have to sell our best players to survive and on occasion the directors have had to help out with the wage bill."

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Unhappy returns... Wimbledon's former hero Beasant, hustled by Ekoku and Earle, is beaten by Gayle's shot

Uefa Cup, first round, second leg: Halmstads (0) v Newcastle (4)

Shearer flies in earnest

MICHAEL WALKER in Halmstad. Ten weeks after Alan Shearer was reported to be booked on a plane to Milan with Manchester United, he finally arrived on the Continent. It was mid-July when Shearer, then a Blackburn Rovers player, was the subject of a travel company's unsavoury hoax, but yesterday afternoon a balmy Scandinavian sun greeted the striker and his Newcastle team-mates as they trained at the compact Orisjansvall stadium in this Swedish coastal resort. Their defence of a four-goal lead against the Swedish part-timers should be straightforward but preparatory injuries have been hampered by the injuries to Peter Beardsley and David

surely not be watching from the stand are Les Ferdinand, partnering Shearer and Faustino Asprilla in a £28.5 million forward line, and David Batty. For Batty the game has a deeper significance. It is almost a year since his last match in Europe, when he traded punches with his Blackburn team-mate Graeme Le Saux. "Europe hasn't been too kind to me so far. That was part of a shameful night," he said. "But I've paid the price and that's why I didn't play in the first leg." He served a two-match suspension for his misdemeanour. Batty stressed the need for a "good, tidy job" tonight to ensure Newcastle are in Friday's draw. "To say we're capable of winning this competition is realistic."

Premiership: Wimbledon 3, Southampton 1

Beasant given night to forget by Ekoku

Trevor Haylett

WHEN the boys at Wimbledon are not trawling the depths to find a ridiculous analogy with which to lampoon Gary Linaker they are rather good at their trade. Last night they demolished a pitiful Southampton side to record their fifth successive win and confirm their ride to sixth in the Premiership. Matthew Oakley's late goal was about the only good thing that happened for Graeme Souness's side on a night summed up by Le Tissier's casual back-pass which gave Ekoku his second of the game shortly before. It might put Southampton in a class of one but they could claim with some justification beforehand that a visit to the Dons holds no fear for them. On their last five excursions to play them at Selhurst Park they have returned home victorious four times. The Coca-Cola Cup had reminded Southampton of what it takes to win games and for the first time this season Souness felt sufficiently ambitious to pair both his main strikers Shipperley and Watson. Watson went close with the first attempt on goal but Wimbledon were not long in making their attacking threat known in time to see Dean Holdsworth, eager to impress after a transfer demand and a highly publicised fall-out with Joe Kinnear, drew a low save from Dave Beasant with a strongly directed header. After 12 minutes another cross from the right was struck deep and gave Slater problems in deciding whether to clear at the back post. In the event he succeeded only in sending the ball looping into the air once more, where Beasant's attempts to effect a clean catch appeared to have been impeded by the muscular presence of Ekoku. Marcus Gayle lashed the loose ball home and the referee, after consulting with his assistant, confirmed the goal. Southampton's employment of a three-man defence looked decidedly hazardous and there were several goals as soon as one of the three was dragged wide. Beasant halted one Ekoku charge but his return to old haunts was about to turn into a haunting experience. Holdsworth's neat control by the left touching encouraged Ekoku to slip into the central acres exposed. Ekoku held off Dryden and unleashed a skidding shot that Beasant would have expected to save. Instead the ball squirmed under his body and over the line. Between these two blows Southampton were not without chances of their own. Shipperley kept Neil Sullivan on his toes with two shots and Slater might have made amends for his earlier error with a heading opportunity. It all served to indicate why Souness has made himself busy in the transfer market in the last few days. Earlier yesterday Paolo Alves flew in from Portugal in an attempt to resurrect this £1.5m transfer from Sporting Lisbon. Souness can only hope he had not arrived in time to see this poor imitation of Premiership quality. Wimbledon's Sullivan; Cunningham, McAlister, Perry, Kinloch, Arley, Leighton, Clarke, Smith, Evans, Smith; Holdsworth (Clarke, 88), Davis, Southamptons Beasant; Minton, 42; Westwood; Slater, Middleton, Neilson, Le Tissier, Charles, Watson (Holdsworth, 3), Shipperley (87); Referee P. Durkin (Portsmouth, 67).

Dons riding for a fall, warns Barry's coach

BARRY TOWN'S player-coach Gary Barnett is talking about knocking Aberdeen out of the Uefa Cup tonight, even though the Scottish Premier Division side will bring a 3-1 lead to Jarrow Park. Barnett points out that his League of Wales side discovered a giant-killing knack in the qualifying round. They overturned a similar away-leg deficit to Budapest Vasutas of Hungary by beating them 3-1 at home and winning a penalty shoot-out 4-2. Aberdeen will be without Paul Bernard, who sustained a hamstring during the 2-0 defeat by Hibernian. Celtic, meanwhile, must tonight forget 20 years of failure on German soil. They trail SV Hamburg 2-0 after a bad night in Glasgow and have never scored in five visits to Germany since 1976.

Uefa Cup, first round, second leg: Halmstads (0) v Newcastle (4)

Helsingborgs (1) v Aston Villa (1)

We'll attack, say Swedes who hope to detach Villa

TOM EVANS in Helsingborg. Helsingborgs drew 1-1 at Aston Villa their coach Reine Almqvist promised to play less defensively in the second leg. People who expect his team to go forward at all costs. The press corps who descended on their 10,000-capacity stadium were poised to write "Swedes in Dirty Tricks" stories when they saw that the pitch had been reduced by two metres in width, but nothing sinister has happened. Uefa rules state that the safety barriers around the pitch must be three metres away from the playing area and not two as before. Villa make only one change from the side that held Manchester United to a goalless draw on Saturday. The midfielder Ian Taylor will make his European debut in place of the Serb Sasa Curcic, who is ineligible. "I know we will come in for a lot of criticism if we don't win," said Villa's manager Brian Little. "But as a team we have always responded to that sort of situation over the past 12 months." Almqvist had the last word. Asked whether he would play 10 men behind the ball on the home leg as he had done at Villa Park, he replied: "I thought I said I would play all 11 behind the ball." Tonight, though, the joke may be on him.

Sport in brief

Rugby Union

Bridgeend have called off tomorrow's scheduled match at Leicester to a goalless Anglo-Welsh Cup fixture of the week to be abruptly postponed, tonight's Bristol-Pontypriid game being the other. Wales play France in Cardiff tomorrow but the Bridgeend secretary David Lock blamed injuries, unavailability and suspensions, saying: "We are committed to the Anglo-Welsh Cup." Orrell have warned Llanelli that they expect compensation for Franco Botica and will hold the former All Black to his union contract even though the Welsh have paid Castelford rugby league club a reported £75,000 for him.

Baseball

The Atlanta Braves clinched the National League East title with an 8-2 victory over the Montreal Expos, their pitcher John Smoltz underlining his claim to the league's Cy Young Award by allowing two runs and four hits over eight innings with 10 strikeouts. He sealed his 23rd win of 1996 with the bat, hitting a three-run homer in the sixth.

Chess

After six successive wins, England crashed 3-1 to Spain in last night's seventh round of the Olympiad in Erevan and dropped out of the leading group, writes Leonard Barden. Nigel Short, who has set to win, resigned to Alexey Shirov and even Matthew Sadler, England's best player in the previous rounds, lost with the white pieces. Russia forged ahead with an impressive 3½-1½ win over the Czech Republic including a 25-move victory for Garry Kasparov, who stormed Zbynek Hracek's stranded king with a bishop sacrifice.

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP, NATIONWIDE LEAGUE, and SCOTTISS LEAGUE, listing various football clubs and their predicted outcomes.

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Motor Racing

The moment truth dawned on Villeneuve

Alan Henry on why Sunday's race went wrong for Damon Hill

IF DAMON HILL fails to win the 1996 world championship, he may believe that lap 22 of the Portuguese Grand Prix was the moment his title hopes evaporated. By lap 16 provided a more significant event.

Hill had pole position for Sunday's race at Estoril and made a perfect start, drawing smoothly away from the pack. The Briton is at his best with a clear track ahead, and by his first routine refuelling stop at the end of lap 17 he was leading Jean Alesi's Benetton by 8.8sec and his team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, his only rival for the title, by 9.7sec.

Yet the next few laps would underline the reservations the Williams team have privately harboured about his completeness as a grand prix driver. Carving through heavy traffic yet again proved difficult for Hill, and slowly but surely his advantage ebbed.

At the end of lap 20 everything seemed secure enough. Hill was running in second, making up ground after his stop, he was still behind Alesi but nearly 20sec ahead of Villeneuve, then in fourth place behind Mika Hakkinen's McLaren. Hill had just lapped in 1min 24.944sec, Villeneuve in 1min 25.900sec.

On lap 21 the stopwatch showed Hill only 14.8sec ahead of Villeneuve as he came up to lap Ricardo Rosset's Footwork, which was battling for 16th place with Ukyo Katayama's Tyrrell. These two were paying scant attention to their rear-view mirrors and Hill simply could not pass them.

Between laps 21 and 23 his lead over Villeneuve, the more comfortable in traffic, was slashed from 14.8 to 7.1sec. Hill lost 5.8sec on lap 22 alone as he struggled to get past the slower cars. On lap 23 he lapped Rosset but was still behind two seconds a lap to Villeneuve as he struggled to overtake Katayama, which took him until the end of lap 24.

With a clear track ahead of him again Hill managed to stabilise his advantage, even opening it out to 9.8sec by the end of lap 25. But by the time the two Williams drivers emerged from their second refuelling stops, on laps 30 and 31 respectively, Villeneuve had scented a possible victory. On lap 37 he was 2.5sec behind Hill and on lap 39 he was only 0.8sec adrift.

The situation now developed into a deadlock. Villeneuve felt he could have lapped faster on a clear track.

but Hill could dictate the pace, provided of course that he did not make a slip. The outcome of this potential championship decider would now depend on the times the Williams cars took for their final refuelling stops.

Hill was due in at the end of lap 49, and unfortunately found himself following David Coulthard's McLaren, limping in with punctured rear tyre, round the last right-handers before the pits. Hill had to swoop wide round the outside of the McLaren before darting back across the track and into the pit entrance-road.

Although he would later suggest this cost him more time, in fact Hill's "in lap" before his third and final refuelling stop was 1min 30.826sec. Villeneuve came in next lap in 1min 30.754s. The two were now less than a couple of seconds apart, but the final blow for Hill came when he was held for a couple of crucial seconds after the completion of his refuelling because Coulthard had pulled into the McLaren pits a few yards further on.

Next time round, as Hill hurtled past the pits to complete his 50th lap, Villeneuve was accelerating hard down the pit lane to return to the race, just managing to squeeze out and into the first corner before his rival.

It would be easy to blame Hill's failure to win the race on that added delay in the pit lane, but it would not give the full picture.

More relevant is Villeneuve's brilliant manoeuvre on lap 16, when he took fourth place from Michael Schumacher's Ferrari by an audacious lunge round the outside of the final right-handers before the pits.

Here was a crucial difference between the two Williams drivers. Villeneuve took a massive risk because he knew he had nothing to lose. Hill had everything to lose, yet with the race victory in the palm of his hand he still could not prevent it somehow slipping away.

CRICKET: THE VERDICT ON 1996



Gooch... bristling with years, runs and a £10,000 cheque

The end of English cricket as we know it

Today the TCCB will vote to make way for a new governing board. Mike Selvey looks back on a season of England consolidation

THIS season was the end of an era for English cricket. By the time the balls are back on next April the game will have a new management structure in place from top to tail. Lord's today is the last day when the Test and County Cricket Board members vote themselves out of existence.

They will do so to adopt the Morgan working party's proposals and form an all-embracing England and Wales Cricket Board, the ECB, which will mean change from the grassroots to international level.

There will be a new chairman and selectors for England, including a year as Lord's today is the last day when the Test and County Cricket Board members vote themselves out of existence.

place on the bedrock that has been provided by a consistent and at times ebullient batting side. All the current top six in the England order have scored Test centuries in the 12 months.

With Cork out of sorts, though, wicket-taking has been a problem and there are still no signs of a truly fast bowler. But Mallya has emerged as a source of reliability, and with a resurgent Gooch the seam bowling has more bite to it.

Of the two visiting sides, Pakistan provided the stiffer opposition. Led by Wasim Akram they have progressed from volatility to become a well-disciplined unit, with quality batting particularly from Saad Arwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Ijaz Ahmed, allied to the bowling genius of Waqar Younis, Wasim and Mushaq Ahmed. India were not helped by troubles in the camp but Tendulkar, their captain now, and the baby-faced Sourav Ganguly batted superbly and their new-ball pair of Srinath and Prasad proved tested.

The domestic season, like a 23.99 bottle of wine, was palatial but never vintage. Leicestershire won a Test-series win over India off-set by a heavy defeat by Pakistan in the other series, but there is evidence of much progress in the hardening-up process that is crucial if the team are to compete consistently against the best English players have fallen at the last hurdle of the season but overall they are harder to beat.

His last summer brought mixed fortunes for England, with success in the Test-series of Texaco matches and a Test-series win over India off-set by a heavy defeat by Pakistan in the other series, but there is evidence of much progress in the hardening-up process that is crucial if the team are to compete consistently against the best English players have fallen at the last hurdle of the season but overall they are harder to beat.

There were controversies, of course. Chris Lewis, having re-established himself in the England team, blew it all

with a late appearance during the final Test at The Oval to leave his international aspirations in tatters. So, for a while, one of the young Sussex fast bowlers, Ed Giles, who tested positive for cocaine early in the season and last month received a ban until the start of the 1998 season. He is to appeal.

So too are Ian Botham and Lamb, after the failure of their libel action against Imran Khan. The High Court heard day upon summer day of the subtleties of scratching a cricket ball and the science of reverse swing. Most observers were eventually rendered comatose by it all.

In the real world such squabbling might be settled by a thump on the back and a pint afterwards, but when egos clash the sparks fly. And now they are willing to do it all again.

Among those who have played their last county cricket are Dermot Reeve, who brought innovation, inspiration and nuisance value to Warwickshire; Allan Lamb, who would have played but wanted his name published instead; the Kent pair of Mark Benson and Alan Igglesden; Glamorgan's worthy seamer Steve Barwick; and John Carr, who leaves Middlesex to become the ECB's cricket secretary.

After the incumbent Tim Lamb takes up the post of chief executive in November. The outgoing chief executive Alan Smith — most famous quote: "No comment, but don't quote me" — is retiring to sit on the fence.

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First-class averages

BATTING

Table with columns: Mininum innings, M, I, NO, Runs, HS, Ave, 100, 50. Lists players and their statistics.

BOWLING

Table with columns: Mininum wickets, O, M, R, W, Ave, Sw10w, Best. Lists bowlers and their statistics.



Gooch... resurgent form to top the domestic rankings

Motor Sport

McRae to lose his co-driver

THE 1996 world rally champion Colin McRae is to lose his co-driver of nine years, Derek Ringer announcing yesterday that he wanted to "start a new chapter" in his life next year.

"This decision has not been an easy one," said Ringer, who also won the British title with McRae in 1991-92. "Colin has been a great friend, my thoughts for some time, we have been through so much together and I am obviously sad to be leaving."

The Subaru driver, who added the title to Finland's Tourist Trophy in 1995, has been a winner in the British title at last week's Rally Australia, responded: "I owe a lot to Derek. His expertise and professionalism both in the car and out are superb."

Mitsubishi, seeking to add the constructors' title, has hired the 1994 champion Didier Auriol to drive in next month's San Remo Rally. Auriol has been without a car since Toyota were banned.

Cycling

Minali shines again for Italy

NICOLA MINALI sprinted to his fourth stage victory in the Tour of Spain on the flat 138-mile haul from Logroño to Sabñanigo yesterday. It was a record 10th success by an Italian rider in this year's race.

After four days of mountain finishes the riders were able to relax in sunshine and strong tailwinds. Minali timed his break well and was able to sit up as he crossed the line ahead of Germany's Steffen Wesemann and the Russian Serge Semakine.

Switzerland's Alex Zülle maintained his overall lead, over a minute ahead of his ONCE team-mate Laurent Jalabert of France. Today's 98-mile 17th stage to the tough mountain finish at Celso de Ibañeta provided the last chance for anyone to catch Zülle and Jalabert before the race ends in Madrid on Sunday.

Teamtalk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Lists football teams and their positions.

TheGuardian INTERACTIVE logo and contact information.

Beasant gives right to force by Ekoku... APPARENTLY NOT.

Wales unveil their high-speed lock, page 13
Tell-tale lesson for Damon Hill, page 15

Instant suspension over injured referee, page 14
First-class averages in full, page 15

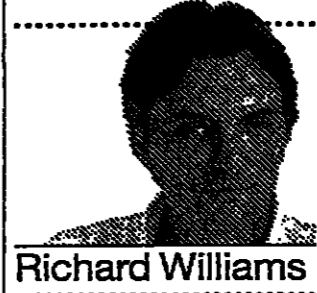
SportsGuardian

WENGER SETS NEW ARSENAL BENCHMARK



First impressions... Arsenal's new manager Arsene Wenger with his No. 2 Pat Rice, right, introduced himself to the players at training yesterday and then endeared himself to the fans with a jibe at the expense of their rivals Spurs, who lost to Leicester City on Sunday. "I tried to watch their match on television but I fell asleep," he said PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Woman aids Walker's new lease of life



Richard Williams

THE NEWS that Murray Walker has been saved for the nation duly arrived yesterday. The world's most excitable 72-year-old will lead ITV's new grand prix team for the next two seasons, which means that he will probably retire at the same time as Damon Hill, who is exactly half Walker's age.

he cannot secure a drive for next season, is expected to slip into the seat alongside Walker, replacing Jonathan Palmer as the resident expert. The favourite for the thankless task of asking a sweat-soaked driver exactly how he has just managed to throw away a certain 15th place is the knowledgeable James Allan, of the American cable and satellite company ESPN.

The new broadcasters need Walker as a guarantee of continuity. His presence, they believe, will reassure the audience built up by the BBC — which lost the contract because it was making a mess of the coverage but because, as a public-service enterprise, it could not match ITV's offer of £75 million for five years of British rights to the world championship.

Crisis point for Yorkshire's famous but dilapidated stadium. David Hopps reports on a sporting dilemma

Headingley on a knife edge

THE future of Headingley as a major multi-sports venue and Test cricket ground will reach crisis point this week with the culmination of confidential talks designed to take Leeds rugby league club to Elland Road, the home of Leeds United.

dances dropped by half as they ensured a disastrous introduction to summer rugby, finishing third-from-bottom in the Super League.

ist attacks — and the profits, thought to be close to £½ million last summer, go to Headingley's owner. The combination of unruly behaviour and poor facilities has already threatened Headingley's survival as a Test ground in anything but the short term.

No longer viable... the owner has made increasingly desperate attempts to attract a buyer

would leave this time-worn ground, cramped by Victorian red-brick terraces, valuable only as a site for development. Leeds CF&AC would probably wind up and the Leeds rugby union and cricket club would consider joint ownership feasible.

Guscott back and Carling to boot

Robert Armstrong on the squad recall of England's most celebrated pair of centres

ENGLAND'S most successful captain Will Carling has been recalled after twice being overlooked by the selectors.



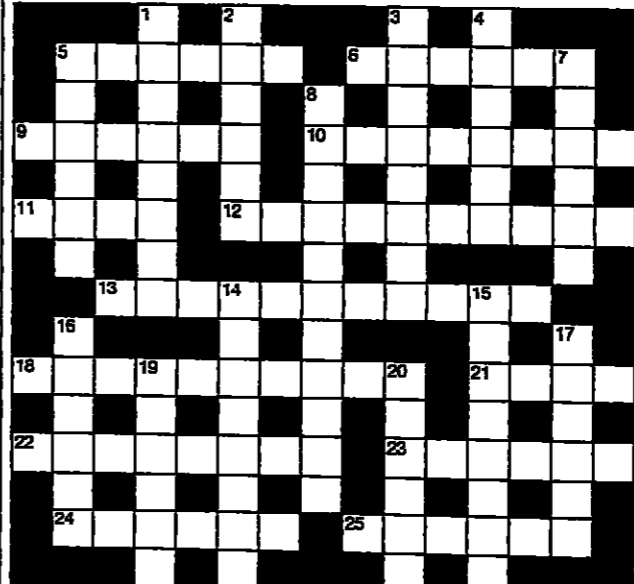
Carling... expectant

Peace, love, flowers. Beer. **Bass** BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

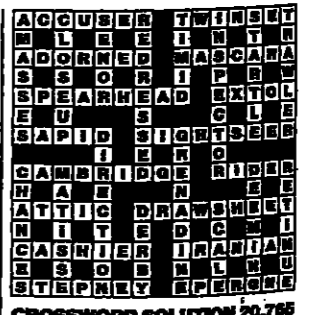
"We will always think of Lauren as our first child. In some ways, it is worse than losing a baby who has actually lived, because you don't have any happy memories." Health **G2 page 6**

INSIDE, all the technology and expertise that \$40 million can buy was being brought to bear on the techniques with which the Formula One Constructors Association will exploit the digital pay-per-view future.

Guardian Crossword No 20,766



- Across: 5 Also the solver's dentally endowed (6); 6 Powdered earth? (6); 9 Gracian head framed by artist — an attractive thing (8); 10 Human lot cast on coast of Northumberland (8); 11 Goddess given hard time (4); 12 Unpoetical form of theft (10); 13 Give evidence animal has head packed with intelligence (4,7); 18 Terribly frisky — won't snooze (5,5); 21 Live broadcast coverage (4); 22 Truth is no substitute for contentious parties (8); 23 Quietly humorous publicity for nymphs (6); 24 Point left regular team (6); 25 From Ulster Mr Harris brought back an old coin (6)
- Down: 1 The charge of the Best generation? (6); 2 Stop talking in confinement (4,2); 3 An English freeholder, open amounts (6); 4 Offended solicitor turning up first (3,3); 5 Time flies — in small amounts (6); 7 Carried round, although superfluous (2,4); 8 A lady, being refined, coarsens him (1,1); 14 Gaunt miscast in Arden and Bow (6); 15 Opera performer bringing up carts loaded with eggs (8); 16 Food for a goose that's empty (6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,766

- 17 Dughill in centre of study? (6)
- 19 Summer? But it's almost fall! (6)
- 20 Butcher's cut saw (6)
- Solution tomorrow

مكازم التجميل

Inside